FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 098 *21 May 1985*

ARGENTINA

Brazilian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit B 1
President Not To Attend June ILO Meeting B 2
Alfonsin To Announce Latin American Nuclear Front B 2
Nuclear Projects 'Paralyzed' By Lack of Resources B 2
Alfonsin Asked To Expedite Plane Sale to Iraq B 3
Air Force Chief on Sale B 4
Union Leader Scores Alfonsin Economic Policies B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 May]
Alfonsin Responsed B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 May]

BOLIVIA

Commander Says Armed Forces Support Democracy C 1
Army's War College Commander Faces Sanctions C 1

BRAZIL

Foreign Minister Discusses Government Policy D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 16 May]
Irish Delegation Negotiating for Tucano Planes D 4

CHILE

Military Meetings With U.S. End in Santiago E 1
Del Valle 'Optimistic' About U.S. Arms Sale E 1
Carvajal Says Subversives Using Soviet Weapons E 1

PERU

President Belaunde Interviewed by Spanish Paper J 1
[Madrid ABC 2 May]

URUGUAY

Sanguinetti, Alfonsin Sign Accords, Declaration K 1
Declaration of Colonia Released K 1
Army To Investigate 'Antipatriotic' Marches K 2

MEXICO

Nicaragua's Cardena Comments on U.S. Embargo M 1
Officials Discuss Increased Trade With Nicaragua M 1
Delegation Returns From Visit M 1
Greater Cooperation Sought M 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Ambassador to U.S. Planning To Resign P 1

EL SALVADOR

Dynamite Attack on Incafe Shop Reported P 1
Group Claims Responsibility P 1
Armed Forces Judge Shot to Death in Capital P 1
FPL Claims Responsibility [EL MUNDO 17 May] P 2
Radio Venceremos Reports Death of Judge P 2

GUATEMALA

Mejia Victores Opposes Assembly Becoming Congress P 3
Assembly Issues Communique P 3

HONDURAS

Political Crisis Reportedly Solved, Agreement Reached P 4
Weekend Meeting Termed Successful P 4
[Managua Radio Noticias]

NICARAGUA

Ortega Ends European Tour, Returns to Managua P 4
Meets Finnish President P 4
Arrives in Sweden P 4
Sweden Increases Imports P 5
Swedish Reportage [cross-reference] P 5
To Return Home 20 May [OPA] P 5
Holds Press Conference in Managua P 5
Ramirez Speaks at School of Journalism P 11
Ramirez Meets Press, Departs for Europe P 16
Further on 16 May Attack on Bluefields P 17
ARDE Suffers 64 Casualties P 17
'Insurgent Outbreak' Reported [ACAN] P 18
Nunez on Rifts Within Opposition Parties P 18
[BARICADA 16 May]
Ministry To Take Over Staple Distribution P 19
Cotton Growers Threaten To Let Fields Go Idle P 19

CUBA

Reportage on Reaction to Radio Marti Broadcasts Q 1
Ties With U.S. Affected [AFP] Q 1
Government Issues Declaration Q 2
Commentary Scores Broadcasts Q 2
Nicaragua's Ramirez Comments Q 2
Argentina's Perez Esquivel Comments Q 3
Former Dominican President Remarks Q 3
Haitian Leader on Broadcasts Q 4
Costa Rican Deputy Views Issue Q 5

Panamanian PRD President Comments	Q 6
Former Colombian Senator Remarks	Q 7
Portugal's Goncalves on Broadcasts	Q 8
TANA President Criticizes Operation	Q 9
Cpustal Leader Comments	Q 10
Camaguey Workers Denounce Station	Q 11
Uruguayan Legislator Comments	Q 11
Solomentsev, Risquet Address Friendship Ceremony	Q 12
Solomentsev Speech	Q 12
Risquet Address	Q 17
Solomentsev Departs	Q 24
SELA, Venezuelan Sectors Support Nicaragua	Q 24
Politburo Members Preside Over Meetings	Q 25
Nicaraguan Communique Urges U.S. To Resume Talks	Q 25
Briefs: Villa Clara Raw Sugar Production	Q 25

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY200315 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2233 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (TELAM) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal today said that the foreign debt problem is within the proper framework of the Consensus of Cartagena and that we must all work at the political level of the Consensus of Cartagena to negotiate a change in the international system. Setubal made this statement upon arriving at Ezeiza International Airport for a 2-day working visit during which he is scheduled to meet with his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo, and also have a special audience with President Raul Alfonsin.

Setubal conveyed the greetings of the Brazilian people on his first visit to Argentina, aimed at expressing the great importance of Brazilian-Argentine relations. Setubal said: Our two countries are in the same region. We have to carry out joint development and have better relations than in the past, when the two countries gave more importance to relations with countries on other continents.

Regarding the issue of the foreign debt, he said that it is within the proper framework of the Cartagena Consensus and that we must all work within the Cartagena Consensus to negotiate a change in the international system, while at the bilateral level each country will have to negotiate its debt to adjust it to its own conditions. Asked if Brazil advocates a political solution of the debt, Setubal said: We insist that the negotiations with the international financial system are of a political nature. He added that negotiations with the financial organizations such as the IMF can be carried out within the established rules, but that changes in international agreements that regulate the international financial system must be renegotiated, keeping in mind the needs and interests of the developing countries, such as Argentina and Brazil.

The Brazilian foreign minister said that without a doubt Brazilian foreign policy reflects the policies of the deceased President-elect Tancredo Neves. Setubal explained that Tancredo Neves established the basic guidelines of Brazilian foreign policy. He added that Neves always said that Brazilian foreign policy was the result of a national consensus even in the periods of great internal divisions. He stated: We will continue Itamaraty's traditional policies that Latin American relations have priority and that world problems are faced as they arise. He explained that he did not come to carry out any specific negotiation, but to talk about points of mutual interest for Brazil and Argentina and world affairs, not specifically the issue of the trade balance between the two countries.

Setubal pointed out that Tancredo Neves' great work was to achieve a national political reconciliation, and that practically 90 percent of the national democratic forces supported the Democratic Alliance and continue to support Jose Sarney with the same firmness. He also said that there are no political problems in Brazil, pointing out that there are intensive internal discussions but that Sarney has complete political and military support.

Setubal will meet with Dante Caputo on 20 and 21 May with an open agenda to discuss the current international situation, regional issues, the Latin American foreign debt, and the current Central American situation. The two foreign ministers will also discuss bilateral relations, especially in the economic and political fields. Rafael Vazques, the Argentine ambassador in Brasilia, is also here to join the meeting and to contact officials of the Foreign Ministry Latin American Affairs Under Secretariat and the South American Department.

PRESIDENT NOT TO ATTEND JUNE ILO MEETING

PY202208 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1940 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (NA) -- At Government House today presidential spokesman Jose Ignasio Lopez admitted that President Alfonsin will not be present at the annual ILO meeting and that he will not visit Yugoslavia because the president finds it "inconvenient to be out of the country at a time when the government is making all possible efforts to face the current crisis." It was originally planned for President Alfonsin to be a special guest at the ILO meeting as the head of the official Argentine labor delegation. After stating that the president would not go to Geneva or Yugoslavia, the presidential spokesman added that "everyone is responsible for this crisis, and the government is doing all it can and must do to face it." Before visiting Geneva on 12 June, Alfonsin was scheduled to make an official visit to Yugoslavia. This would have been the first time an Argentine constitutional president visited that country.

Alfonsin's presence at the ILO meeting could have caused a conflict with the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] because the Argentine Government has not changed the laws for choosing labor representatives to the ILO which were approved by the previous military governments. The Argentine Labor Ministry directly consulted the labor unions instead of the CGT Executive Council in choosing the labor representatives to the ILO because the CGT still does not have official status. The CGT leaders are against the government's decision and they have threatened to denounce before the ILO the official attitude of discrimination against the most important organized labor movement in Argentina.

ALFONSIN TO ANNOUNCE LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR FRONT

PY171917 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1415 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Cordoba, 17 May (TELAM) -- Alberto Constantini, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has revealed that on 31 May, Atomic Energy Day, President Raul Alfonsin will deliver a message of support for the Argentine nuclear plan and will announce a common Latin American front for the use of this energy for peaceful purposes. In remarks to the newspaper LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR, Constantini added that because of economic restrictions the programs of the nuclear plants will not be able to maintain their pace, but explained that the remainder of the nuclear plan will not be affected. He stated that the priorities established will be met in due time. For example, human resources are our number one priority. Research and development comes immediately afterward, followed by the plan for the use of radioisotopes in medicine, industry, agriculture, and other fields, while the last point in our priorities refers to energy problems, that is, to the nuclear plant electricity production. Constantini added that scientists will not feel frustrated or forced to migrate to other parts of the world, and that the presence of President Alfonsin at the ceremony marking Atomic Energy Day to be held on 31 May will show the real support that is being given to the CNEA.

NUCLEAR PROJECTS 'PARALYZED' BY LACK OF RESOURCES

PY201515 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (NA) -- Raul Boix Amat, president of the Argentine Association of Nuclear Technology, asserted that the "current situation is dramatic" for the sector, but added that if the project to build four atomic plants were carried out, "it would be certain that financial aid could be obtained from the private sector."

Boix Amat stated that the sudden cut in the budget of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], which fell from $1.2 billion in 1981 to only $200 million in 1984, has prompted the paralyzation of important nuclear projects. Boix Amat noted that "if the approval of this year's budget continues to be delayed, the reactivation of the nuclear industry will be postponed another year." In this regard he added that "although we still do not know how much money will be allocated for this sector in 1985, according to the figures that have been leaked we will not be able to maintain a reasonable work pace" and added that "there are already three paralyzed projects: the heavy water experimental plant, the uranium enrichment plant, and the radio-chemistry laboratories, recyclying nuclear fuel. Also, only some of the work at the Atucha II plant is being carried out."

After acknowledging that "the government is doing its best with the country's scarce resources," the nuclear official stressed that "the Radical government must realize that the nuclear field is about to yield important economic results" and that "it may soon start to generate a strong support for the export of goods and services." In this regard Boix Amat explained that "so far the country's nuclear development has been basically technological" and that practically all technologies necessary to have an independent nuclear program have been mastered, but that the industrial development is just starting."

Boix Amat said that the nuclear development so far has represented nothing but expenditures, "but that now the sector could start to yield economic benefits;" therefore, "this possibility must not be thwarted." Boix Amat said that currently Argentina is in a position to "export reactors for the production of radio isotopes and for atomic plants," and that "regarding nuclear energy power plants we can associate with international enterprises."

Regarding the prospects that the Argentine nuclear technology has in the PRC market, he said that "there are concrete possibilities in the case of the fuel cycle, for example" since, he asserted, the PRC Government "is very interested in this field." Boix Amat explained that nuclear development in the PRC "is based on the requirements established for the use of nuclear energy for strategic purposes, which are quite different from those for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially regarding its economy and the safety of the plants."

Boix Amat ended by stating that the Argentine nuclear development "has entered the industrialization phase, in which the economic criteria must be granted priority treatment; therefore, private investments must be sought that will yield goods and services -- irradiation plants, and cobalt treatment factories -- that may be exportable."

ALFONSIN ASKED TO EXPEDITE PLANE SALE TO IRAQ

PY201547 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2124 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 May (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin and Cordoba Province Governor Eduardo Angeloz reportedly reviewed this week the possibility of overcoming the international policy difficulties posed by the sale of 20 Pucara IA-63 [as received] airplanes to Iraq, a sale that has, at least initially, been concluded by the landlocked province.

The issue was reportedly analyzed during the lengthy meeting that Alfonsin held with Angeloz on 15 May in which, according to the governor, the establishment of the Japanese Honda enterprise in Cruz del Eje and the delay in the remittance of funds for the construction of houses through the National Housing Fund were discussed.

Nevertheless, it could be learned that the issue of the sale of the IA-63 to Iraq, a country which, as is known, is involved in a long and bloody war with Iran, was reviewed in the president's office. The initial stage of the sale of those airplanes was concluded by Cordoba Foreign Trade Secretary Jorge Caminotti, in exchange for $100 million for the Cordoba treasury, 15 percent of which was to be available immediately and the rest within a 5-year term. The Iraqi purchase includes an option to purchase another 40 airplanes, the supply of repair parts, and technical assistance and pilot training of specialized personnel.

Nevertheless, the sale of the airplanes to Iraq could be truncated as it has not been authorized, at least for the time being, by the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry. Defense Ministry sources have stated that the Defense Ministry must expressly authorize the sale of war materiel because the national security is involved. Moreover, the National Congress, which has the power to veto any transaction of this kind if it feels that it may affect the interests of the nation, is directly responsible for this matter.

It is appropriate to recall that in early 1984 the Argentine Foreign Ministry, which also has a responsibility in these matters, denied the sale of the Argentine-made TAM [Argentine Medium Tank] tanks to Iran, Iraq's enemy in the 3-year-old war.

Angeloz reportedly has asked the president to expedite the paperwork to effect the final documentation on that sale.

Air Force Chief on Sale

PY201845 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 May 85

[By Susana (Serrao) from Government House]

[Excerpts] Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier General Horacio Crespo today met with President Raul Alfonsin. Asked about the sale of Pucara IA-58 [as heard] airplanes to Iraq, Crespo stated that the president knows about this matter, but that it was not discussed during their meeting.

This issue is being handled by the Defense Ministry. A controversy will ensue if the sale is not made because that sale would allow the mobilization of the airplane factories, which would then become self-sufficient.

UNION LEADER SCORES ALFONSIN ECONOMIC POLICIES

PY181716 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 May 85 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Addressing over 12,000 workers in Mendoza's main plaza, unified CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini yesterday once again told the government that if it does not change its economic policy "it should leave." During the CGT's sixth and last demonstration held as part of its "plan of action," the brewers' leader also warned "the people are hungry and they're not going to take it anymore."

But while Ubaldini spoke in Mendoza, presidential secretary German Lopez criticized the unionist's warning. Ubaldini "has proven his tongue is longer than his ideas," said Lopez. Lopez, referring to the CGT's general strike call for next Thursday, said "the strike is not destabilizing but it shows that confrontation and not agreement is being sought."

And Auto Workers' Union (SMATA) Secretary-General Jose Rodriguez said he did not approve of Ubaldini's choice of words. "The Radicals have to leave government when their six years are up," said Rodriguez.

Ubaldini before yesterday's rally explained his statements -- voiced earlier in Formosa and Neuquen -- actually mean that "if competence is lacking to confront the International Monetary Fund, then those who should leave are Economy Ministry officials." Ubaldini received support late Thursday night from the 62 Organizations, which in a statement said the government was trying to distort the CGT leader's words.

The CGT's protest in Mendoza included a province-wide strike. The local government announced striking workers would be docked in pay.

Ubaldini yesterday was also asked about the CGT's "romance" with business groups. "I'm not used to romances with other men," he said. "We're talking with employers, but we have differences. Otherwise there wouldn't be strikes."

In Buenos Aires, Peronist congressmen requested Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo testify in Congress on the job situation, while dockers lifted a strike begun on Thursday but continued work-to-rule measures. The dockers are demanding the work contract signed in 1975 be respected. In Parana, local CGT leaders, businessmen, and political parties signed a statement critical of government economic policy and agreed to form a "permanent committee for production and work."

Alfonsin Responsed

PY181721 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 May 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Trelew, Chubut (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday inaugurated two industrial plants in this province and in a speech to local residents said the Radical government is trying to solve the problems of the most needy "as soon as possible." But Alfonsin turned what was supposed to be strictly a business occasion into a political duel with unified CGT [General Confederation of Labor] Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini, who yesterday again told the government to change its economic policy or leave. Helping the most needy, Alfonsin said, will not be possible with "cry-babies who tell the people that the economy has to be changed or they must go." "We're going to achieve our goals," Alfonsin added during his speech at Trelew's city hall. "We're going to obtain them despite the few softies who are crying and whining."

Ubaldini last night said he could not believe what the president had said. "I have to convince myself that he said what he said. I can't believe a president would say that."

After speaking in Trelew, the president travelled to Puerto Madryn, where his speech to residents was interrupted several times by rowdy Peronist youth supporters. A visibly nervous Alfonsin had to stop his speech at times. The Peronists responded by chanting, "You can feel it, you can feel it, Alfonsin is getting riled." The main purpose of Alfonsin's eight-hour visit to Chubut was to inaugurate two industrial plants in Puerto Madryn. Accompanied by Chubut Governor Atilio Vigliore and businessmen, Alfonsin first inaugurated a fish processing plant owned by the Harengus company. Harengus chairman Alejandro Bulheroni in a brief speech called on the government to help promote industries in the country's south. Alfonsin responded by promising to "de-bureaucratize" government procedures for doing business. The president also added that the government will shortly offer tax support to bolster regional exports.

Though Alfonsin returned without any problems, his early morning trip south was briefly delayed by engine trouble with the Tango-1 presidential jet. After a quick change of planes and reports that Alfonsin was very upset over the technical problem, the presidential delegation left for Trelew.

COMMANDER SAYS ARMED FORCES SUPPORT DEMOCRACY

PY201535 Paris AFP in Spanish 1439 GMT 19 May 85

[Excerpts] La Paz, 19 May (AFP) -- Commander in Chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces General Simon Sejas Tordoya stated in La Paz today that the Armed Forces fully guarantee the holding of general elections on 14 July.

The statements of the military leader come at a time of sharp social tension prompted by the new devaluation of the Bolivian peso by 50 percent in relation to the U.S. dollar, which occurred last Friday.

Under these circumstances, Gen Sejas Tordoya emphasized that there is a monolithic unity prevailing within the Armed Forces, which are fully engaged in defending the democratic process.

In political circles it was stated that there was unrest in certain sectors of the Armed Forces due to the economic measure enacted last week, which was expressly denied by the top Bolivian military leader.

ARMY'S WAR COLLEGE COMMANDER FACES SANCTIONS

PY180327 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2148 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 16 May (EFE0 -- The military high command is studying disciplinary sanctions against General Sergio Osinaga, the commander of the Army's War College, who is being charged by the conservative parties with plotting to interrupt the electoral process.

The statements made by Osinaga to a local newspaper have aroused dissatisfaction within the Armed Forces, which are pressing the military high command to sanction Osinaga for his political and unscrupulous slanders against other military men.

The Armed Forces have asked that the military high command take a stand regarding the statements made by Osinaga because they tarnish the dignity of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, that of a presidential candidate, and that of the leadership and officers of the Armed Forces.

The leadership and officers are reportedly offended because Gen Osinaga has stated that, as the commander of the War College, I want to train qualified professional cadets so that the Army can have military men who are better than the ones we have now.

Gen Osinaga denied the accusations made by the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) Party, led by former President Hugo Banzer Suarez, of leading a group of military men who are reportedly seeking to interrupt the electoral process.

I am not a coupist because I am a professional military man and, furthermore, I personally have no ambition to become the president of the Republic because if I had that ambition I would have seized power when I was the commander of the Tarapaca regiment.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT POLICY

PY181406 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 85 p 36

[Address by Foreign Minister Olavo Egydio Setubal to the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee on 15 May in Brasilia]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, Messrs Deputies:

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation extended by the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee for what I hope will be a comprehensive and fruitful dialogue. The democratic essence of the new Republic must be permanently shown through a willingness to hold a mutually constructive and informative debate between those institutions that safeguard the balance of national power and the political representation of the nation.

The present crisis in Central America is an issue that must be particularly noted. The sociopolitical changes that have taken place in the region as the inevitable result of the ousting of dictatorial regimes must not be evaluated within the framework of a simplistic point of view or merely within the context of a localized conflict between the superpowers. The use of force or of armed intervention cannot be considered viable options to solve problems that are rooted in the history of each nation. These problems must be assessed within their respective national contexts without interference and their international implications must be channeled through the mediation of countries that are either present or have effective interests in the region. This is why Brazil supports the peaceful efforts that have been undertaken by the Contadora Group.

This position was reasserted last week after the U.S. Government announced the enforcement of unilateral economic sanctions against Nicaragua. In an official note issued on this subject, the Brazilian Government stated that it does not support the adoption of measures similar to the ones that have been implemented or of any other measure that may place the Central American crisis within the context of the East-West conflict.

When the issue was raised at the UN Security Council, Brazil also deplored the adoption of unilateral economic measures, because it believes they are incompatible with the UN Charter, the GATT, and the OAS Charter. Moreover, we urged the parties involved to abstain from taking any actions that could undermine any prospects for an eventual understanding.

As a peaceful nation that is again dedicated to the priority task of achieving the socioeconomic development of its people, Brazil is striving to maintain diplomatic relations with all countries based on the principles of noninterference and mutual respect. It is within this framework that I want to inform the legislative branch, through the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, that I have decided to conduct studies aimed at resuming diplomatic relations with Cuba. We shall study all aspects of this decision, particularly those concerning eventual implications in national security matters. This commission's position in favor of resuming diplomatic relations with Cuba played a preponderant role in our decision.

As for bilateral relations with the United States, which are based on strong historic ties, we base them on an open and mature dialogue. Two great democracies cannot be afraid to be frank or presuppose that either side will adopt a passive, complying attitude. It is necessary to strengthen relations with the United States and to discuss those joint undertakings that are under way as well as new means of cooperation. This is why I plan to go to Washington in June to start the political dialogue between the new Republic and the U.S. Administration.

It is my intention to discuss the main guidelines concerning bilateral relations, because I am certain that common problems must be studied based on the notion that they are not signs of incompatibility between two parties but merely situations that considerably undermine the productive sectors of both parties. The structural differences between the Brazilian and U.S. economies necessarily lead each party to have different views of the overall economic reality and different motivations. It is necessary, therefore, to continue diligently working to clear up any misunderstandings and to overcome any differences through mutually satisfactory agreements.

The traditional ties that link us to Western Europe transcend the political and diplomatic field. From it we have inherited our social traditions and the political ideals and concepts that are the basis of our nationality. This is why we shall grant particular attention to our ties with the West European countries, and particularly to our relations with the EEC. In 1984 Brazil obtained the second largest surplus in its commercial balance from the EEC market. We wish to expand our trade with the EEC, but we are apprehensive because of the persistent protectionist measures adopted by the Community on manufactured agricultural products that are important Brazilian export items. As for the repercussions of the entrance of Spain and Portugal into the EEC, we hope that it will not have a negative effect and block the access of Brazilian merchandise to the European market.

Our relations with the East European countries have developed in a discreet manner, on the basis of the principles of noninterference, mutual respect, and reciprocal benefit. There is room for developing closer commercial and economic relations, and more mature and impartial diplomatic and political ties. Brazil must recognize the presence of the USSR as a superpower on the world stage. I still want to assess all the aspects of national political and economic interests that may benefit from the promotion of a dialogue with the new Soviet Administration. We can resort to the Coordinating Group for Trade With the Socialist Countries [Coleste], an organization that provides our institutional mechanism for dealing with the East European socialist countries. This agency was designed on the basis of an original formula, and it has been recognized as an efficient mechanism for the promotion of economic relations with nations operating with state-planned economies. We will try to make it more effective in order to promote our trade with the East European countries.

The international Bretton Woods Agreement, upon which the current financial system has been designed, established a formula of fixed parity to the dollar for the currency of signatory countries. At the same time, the U.S. Government agreed to maintain the convertibility of its currency to gold. The United States unilaterally broke this agreement in 1971. This measure was later endorsed within the IMF through the agreements sponsored by the developed countries. Thereafter, the U.S. Treasury no longer had the obligation to convert dollars to gold at the request of the central banks of other signatory countries.

The breaking of this agreement has had deep repercussions on the international financial system. Since that moment, the dollar, a currency used for reserves and for international exchange, has remained outside any multilaterally established control. The "Gold Exchange System" [preceding phrase in English] was thus replaced by the "Dollar System" [preceding phrase in English]. Beyond all doubt, this measure has been the main cause of the current situation, in which U.S. monetary policy is ruling the entire international financial system.

A consequence of this measure was the rise of international interest rates to all-time record highs and, therefore, the development of an unfavorable situation for capital-importing countries. This adjustment process has been marked by an unacceptable asymmetry of obligations as far as economic policy is concerned: While developing countries have been asked to adopt strict macroeconomic parameters, the United States has refused to exercise stronger discipline in the area, thus having seriously negative consequences in the rest of the world.

As you very well know, Brazil and other countries that are facing the same problems have strongly criticized this situation. It was not until recently that the industrialized countries themselves, particularly the European countries, began raising objections to this state of affairs, taking into account the disorderly and at times uncontrollable fluctuations in the parity of their currencies to the dollar.

Consistent with our line of action in this area, we oppose the international financial system being changed exclusively by rich countries without the participation of developing countries, particularly because the latter are now suffering the most devastating effects of the prevailing financial disorder.

Another important issue in this area is that World Bank and IMF resources have decreased, in real terms, from the time these agencies were founded, such resources today being smaller in terms of world trade or gross world product. We advocate increasing these resources, because, while privately owned financial capital tends to withdraw from the market in times of depression further aggravating recession, IMF and World Bank resources can and must be used to neutralize economic depression.

At multilateral financial forums, we will try to support the position that financial stability, as a target, cannot be pursued disregarding the objective of higher socioeconomic development, particularly of the poorer areas of the world.

As for the debt issue, 11 Latin American countries; a great portion of the debt is owed by Latin America, have created the so-called Cartagena Group.

The Cartagena Consensus, in which Brazil has played an active role, has repeatedly tried to draw the creditor countries' attention to the fact that the foreign debt issue still remains unresolved. Unfortunately, the major developed countries, judging by the recent Bonn Declaration, have not yet realized that the political dialogue proposed by the Cartagena Consensus can be mutually beneficial by preventing in time a more dramatic situation that can have serious consequences for both creditor and debtor countries.

We can see that international trade under GATT rules currently represents about four-fifths of the world-wide total. It is now six times higher than after World War II in real value. The 1945-73 period, the lifespan of a generation, registered the greatest upsurge of economic expansion in human history; that expansion can to a large degree be accredited to the workings of the rules of multilateralism in the systems for international trade and payment.

We are very concerned about the rising protectionism by the developed countries, which are precisely those that are in the best position to absorb the developing countries' exports. We take this protectionism to be a refusal by the industrialized countries to undertake important structural adjustments based on the acceptance of a more equitable international distribution of labor that will allow the developing countries to exploit new comparative advantages. To that effect, it is necessary for the rich countries to accept this economic principle as well as the idea that development implies a break with traditional trading patterns; in other words, development also implies the creation of comparative advantages.

We are equally concerned about the growing tendency toward bilateralism in the commercial area. At this time, the U.S. Government is exerting pressure on GATT members to hold a new round of negotiations aimed at liberalizing international trade and expanding the GATT agreement to questions related to services and investments.

Strong pressure is being exerted, and the U.S. authorities are hinting at walking out of the GATT system in favor of a policy of bilateral agreements with those partners which, in their view, are more compatible with their own way of thinking. A consensus can already be perceived among developed countries on the idea of holding such bilateral negotiations, although the date when the negotiations will start and the agenda thereof are not yet well established.

Such a departure from GATT represents an extremely important challenge to Brazil's foreign policy. We are in an intermediary stage of industrialization, and we need to ensure conditions for the full expansion and completion of the cycle of development we are going through.

The industrialized countries, especially the United States, are in that stage known as post-industrial development, which is based on the rendering of services and manufacturing of high-technology goods. It is only natural then that their interest should be different and conflicting with ours.

Brazil is not opposed to any initiative aimed at the effective liberalization of trade that will concretely expand the possibilities for its relative participation in international trade. Our country believes, however, that some prerequisites must be fulfilled by the rich countries before the developing countries can consider the hypothesis of participating in a new round of commercial negotiations. Thus, the developed countries should first fulfill the commitment they assumed at the GATT ministerial meeting in November 1982 not to raise new trade barriers and to dismantle those barriers that are at odds with GATT principles. On the other hand, they should recognize the need for extending differential and most-favored treatment to developing countries on commercial matters.

Consonant with our position, we will try, in conjunction with other developing countries, to gain better institutional arrangements for the sale of our products in world markets. Likewise, we will endeavor in all forums to achieve the goal that questions of a commercial nature are jointly addressed with questions of a financial nature. We will firmly oppose the inclusion of new questions, such as services and investments, into the GATT system.

Within the context we have just described, Brazilian diplomacy will emphasize, in the area of economic foreign policy, two main aspects: In multilateral forums and particularly in the GATT forum, we will emphasize the commercial aspect in defense of our interests as a developing country; and in the Cartagena consensus forum, the financial aspect, so as to make operational the political considerations that more and more have a bearing on the discussions of the foreign debt of the Latin American countries.

IRISH DELEGATION NEGOTIATING FOR TUCANO PLANES

PY181449 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] An Irish delegation is visiting Sao Jose dos Campos to negotiate the construction of 130 Tucano aircraft for military training for the Royal Air Force. So far, 500 of these planes have been sold.

Forty-one units of another model, the Brasilia, with a 30-passenger capacity, have already been sold. National and foreign enterprises are requesting 94 additional units. The Brasilia will be officially presented to the international market on 1 June at the Paris fair.

MILITARY MEETINGS WITH U.S. END IN SANTIAGO

PY201350 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] Santiago, 19 May (AFP) -- Chilean Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal today asserted that the objective of the fourth consultative meeting on security issues held by the United States and Chile was to seek a better understanding regarding the political-military problems of the two countries. The meeting, held by representatives of the Armed Forces chiefs of staff of the two countries, ended last Friday with the participation of U.S. Lieutenant General Herman Thompson and Chilean Major General Alejandro Medina. Minister Carvajal said that at the national defense level we have a better understanding of our common problems than does the ordinary Chilean or U.S. citizen, thanks to the fact that we have always maintained this relationship despite the well-known difficulties, such as the U.S. ban on arms sales to Chile. Carvajal explained that these annual meetings continue because we believe that through communication one can reach understanding which, in turn, leads to friendship. He said that he also believed that these meetings are very advantageous for the two countries. A similar meeting was held in Washington last year.

DEL VALLE 'OPTIMISTIC' ABOUT U.S. ARMS SALE

PY170230 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 85

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle voiced his hope that the United States will lift the Kennedy Amendment, which covers the sale of arms to Chile. He also stated that he expects that the current prohibition will be a temporary situation and expressed optimism on the [word indistinct] of this issue. He stated that this matter shows a lack of understanding and knowledge of the real situation prevailing in Chile. Asked about the signs pointing to a lifting of the prohibition, Del Valle replied that all the signs make us feel optimistic. He stated that his contacts with high-ranking U.S. officials have not been inadequate. At the same time, Del Valle voiced his hope that there will be better understanding in the near future, but reiterated that this process has not concluded yet. Thus, Del Valle stated, we think that the visits by U.S. congressmen and of State Department officials are hopeful. On the subject of recent violence, Del Valle stated that these actions are absolutely despicable. He also stated that he believes that the entire public will agree that this is shameful situation which harms the most innocent and defenseless people, and that this shows very well who is behind these types of unspeakable actions.

CARVAJAL SAYS SUBVERSIVES USING SOVIET WEAPONS

PY201405 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal has stated that it is a proven fact that the weapons being used by the promoters of violence come from abroad. Carvajal added that the weapons have a Soviet trademark, or a trademark from countries belonging to the Soviet orbit. He also stated that the propaganda being received comes from communist sources and is paid for with money from Moscow. Carvajal added that these are not great exaggerations, reiterating that [word indistinct] know the connection between what Moscow is ordering its Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] over the radio, because currently they announce that on a given date there will be an attack or a protest, and it is usually carried out just as they say. Thus, he added, a very clear and concrete process is being seen. That is undeniable. From Moscow, not only are they outlining the program of violent actions, but virtually [words indistinct]. In conclusion, Carvajal strongly repudiated those who are participating in violent actions.

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE INTERVIEWED BY SPANISH PAPER

PM201529 Madrid ABC in Spanish 2 May 85 p 36

[Interview with President Fernando Belaunde Terry by Justo Chavez in Lima; date not given]

[Excerpt] Lima -- [Chavez] Mr President, how can one describe the attack on Dr Domingo Garcia Rada, the country's supreme electoral authority?

[Belaunde] The fate of the president of the electoral board deserves the citizens' most resolute condemnation. It was decided to kill the symbol of electoral probity; it was decided to silence a capable and fair man with an untarnished career as a magistrate. In this instance terrorism acted malevolently, with violence and unprecedented brutality against a distinguished citizen who directed the most honest electoral process ever held in Peru. He presided over the last two electoral processes, which proved unfavorable to the government, but they fortify both democracy and my successor.

[Chavez] Are you sorry to be leaving the Presidential Palace on 28 July?

[Belaunde] No, not at all. I am leaving with no ambition to return to the presidency. I do not intend to run in 1990. In 10 years as president, with two constitutional periods, I have had enough anxieties and satisfactions. I will devote myself to politics, training my party's new generations.

[Chavez] Do you believe that there is a change in the wishes of the Peruvian electorate?

[Belaunde] Yes. Over the past 20 years a change has come about, and it does not apply only to the party that won the elections this time. It also applies to Popular Action which triumphed in the 1963 and 1980 elections, gaining a large vote. The basic difference is that we gained our victory without resorting to Marxism to gain support. We proceeded from ancestral Peruvian traditions to obtain an unquestionable mandate from the people. Now this mandate has been given to the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] which, despite its Marxist origins, has become a movement motivated by national and regional considerations. In accordance with the law of physics, the pendulum that swung APRA's way in 1985 will favor us in 5 year's time.

Differences With APRA

[Chavez] Are the doctrinal differences between Popular Action and APRA major ones?

[Belaunde] The basic difference between the two parties is that ours was not rocked in the Marxist cradle. We did not need to distance ourselves from that cradle because we were never rocked in it. From the outset we sought the nation's course. APRA later sought a Latin American course, which is where we coincide, but it did not completely disburden itself of the Marxist paraphernalia amid which it was born. Subsequently [former APRA leader] Haya de la Torre developed different theories which, in any case, set aside any APRA identification with Marxism. They considered it hasty, premature. Nevertheless there are similarities between the two movements. They have both won over the masses without subordinating themselves to international doctrines.

I believe this is important in Latin America because there are very few movements on this continent that have not needed to subordinate themselves to world revolutionary tendencies in order to gain the voters' support.

[Chavez] With regard to revolutionary tendencies, do you not believe that the regional war in Central America and the violence of the Shining Path in Peru pose a threat to Latin America's weak democracies?

[Belaunde] I believe that violence is losing battles, because nothing has been worse for terrorism than free elections. Terrorism has been unable to destroy a single ballot box and has failed to affect the working of a single electoral board, out of the 42,000 that were established. I believe that terrorism has been eliminated. It must remain on the crime page, from which it should never have emerged. When these cases appeared on papers' political pages an undeserved favor was done to terrorism, and incalculable harm was done to the country. As for the Central American context, the peoples of those fraternal countries reject violence and want peace, which they will soon attain.

Negotiations With IMF

[Chavez] Do you share the opinion of your successor, Dr Alan Garcia, who says that he can do without the IMF in negotiating Peru's foreign debt with creditors?

[Belaunde] It is one thing to conduct a public election campaign, but a very different matter to perform the functions of government, with the responsibilities that I have. I am sure that the next administration will thoroughly analyze this problem, and I do not rule out the possibility of its finding ingenious alternative solutions.

The debt issue is a difficult one because of the unfair exchange rates. There are certain factors that a single country cannot alter on its own. When I became president silver cost 25 dollars (it now costs 6), while copper cost $1.20 (it now costs 60 cents). In other words our basic minerals are being sold below cost price, which complicates the debt repayment and means greater sacrifices and poverty for the people.

I do not believe that it is correct to do without the IMF. On the contrary, it would make an agreement with the Commercial Bank and the Paris Club more difficult. It is necessary to maintain relations with that body that are neither close nor extremist; we must not maintain extremist relations with IMF leaders.

SANGUINETTI, ALFONSIN SIGN ACCORDS, DECLARATION

PY200229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] Colonia, 19 May (TELAM) -- The presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, Raul Alfonsin and Julio Maria Sanguinetti, respectively, today at a ceremony held at the Colonia City Hall signed agreements dealing with economic policy, physical integration, agriculture, and animal husbandry, and a joint declaration that summarizes the viewpoints of the two governments on issues of common interest.

The joint declaration establishes an Argentine-Uruguayan ministerial council for coordination and consultation that will be presided over, on a rotating basis, by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The mission of this council will be to promote the economic and social integration of the two countries within the framework set by the accords and covenants already signed and those to be signed by the two countries.

Alfonsin and Sanguinetti stated in the declaration that the economic and social integration of Latin America is, under the current circumstances, the inevitable course of action for attaining the development and well-being of the countries of the region. The two presidents believe that the creation of the council for coordination and consultation will encourage these efforts and will help to fulfill the objectives set forth in 1980 when the Latin American Integration Association was established.

Declaration of Colonia Released

PY202316 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2050 GMT 19 May 85

["Text" of the "Declaration of Colonia on economic and social integration between the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic" signed by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin at Colonia City Hall on 19 May. read by unidentified official -- live]

[Text] Having met in the city of Colonia, Uruguay, President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Julio Maria Sanguinetti and President of the Argentine Republic Raul Alfonsin, on behalf of their respective governments, hereby declare that:

1. Having decided to strengthen the economic and social integration between the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic and to politically cooperate to attain said goals through the coordinated efforts of their respective governments;

2. Convinced that economic and social integration of all Latin American countries is under the current circumstances the inevitable course of action for attaining the development and well-being of the peoples of this region, an endeavor that will be decisively furthered by the current efforts in bilateral cooperation.

3. Reaffirming that the Argentine-Uruguyan Economic Cooperation Agreement (CAUCE) is an essential instrument for the attainment of broad economic integration between the two countries through successive stages of deregulation that will be programmed jointly;

4. In the understanding that the establishment of a political mechanism for coordination and consultation between the two governments will encourage these efforts by reconciling the tasks of existing bilateral organizations and implementing actions that will guarantee the immediate enactment of decisions made by the appropriate organizations of the two countries and of the agreements reached at binational bodies so as to carry out the intentions stated by the two governments;

5. Persuaded that a mechanism for coordination and consultation of this nature is bound to help fulfill the objective set forth in the Treaty of Montevideo, which created the Latin American Integration Association in 1980;

Resolve:

Article 1. To create the Argentine-Uruguayan ministerial council for coordination and consultation that will be presided over, on a rotating basis, by the foreign ministers of the two countries and made up of the ministers of the economic area and those who have direct jurisdiction over the issues submitted for the consideration of the council, as determined by the respective governments.

Article 2. The main mission of the council will be to promote the economic and social integration of the two countries within the framework set by the accords and convenants already signed or to be signed by the two countries. To this effect the council will evaluate, coordinate, and stimulate the effective implementation of the accords reached by the appropriate organizations and institutions of the two countries having to do with economic and social complementation and integration. The same will apply to the tasks of all Uruguayan-Argentine joint commissions.

Article 3. A secretariat of said council is hereby created. It will be made up of two secretaries general of the council, one for each country, and their assistants that each country will appoint. The two governments will provide the services and facilities necessary for the operation of this secretariat.

Article 4. The council will draw up its own set of rules and regulations and establish the time for its meetings.

ARMY TO INVESTIGATE 'ANTIPATRIOTIC' MARCHES

PY170250 Paris AFP in Spanish 2334 GMT 16 May 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 16 May (AFP) -- Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino announced here today that the alleged antipatriotic activity of a military garrison stationed in San Ramon, 50 km north of Montevideo, will be investigated. According to charges leveled in Congress recently, uniformed military personnel were marching on the main avenue of that city, chanting slogans such as "One, two, three, we shall be back soon." Neighbors of that city said that nearly 300 soldiers staged early morning marches over the past 45 days. Chiarino told the press that this event is similar to that which took place in Fray Bentos, 300 km northwest of Montevideo, and will also be investigated by the Army leadership.

NICARAGUA'S CARDENAL COMMENTS ON U.S. EMBARGO

FL181504 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 18 May (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal said here today that with the support of the international community, Nicaragua will survive the U.S. economic blockade. Interviewed at the airport, the Nicaraguan official, who was passing through Mexico said the Nicaraguan people will resist this embargo and will never surrender to the administration of Ronald Reagan. Later, he thanked the Mexican Government for the assistance it has provided during Nicaragua's revolutionary process, saying that without that support, Nicaragua would have lost its democracy. Finally, Ernesto Cardenal stressed that the U.S. action would in no way undermine the strength of the Nicaraguan people, who are prepared to defend at any cost their democracy and sovereignty.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS INCREASED TRADE WITH NICARAGUA

Delegation Returns From Visit

FL201318 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2020 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] Mexico City, 18 May (NOTIMEX) -- The director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (IMCE), Manuel Armendariz Etchegaray, has reported that Mexico and Cuba have agreed to increase trade in metals, capital goods, chemicals, petrochemicals, and equipment for the tourist and sugar industries.

Upon his return from a trip to various Central American countries, Armendariz spoke of the possibility of opening new cooperative markets with those countries, which would complement their industries and Mexico's. A delegation of Mexican industrialists and the director of IMCE visited Panama, Nicaragua, and Cuba to strengthen commercial ties between those countries and Mexico and enlarge existing markets. Mexico is seeking to encourage and create a climate favorable to complementary industrial investment and joint ventures.

Armendariz Etchegaray stressed the positive situation Mexico enjoys in the Central American countries, which makes it possible for Mexico to successfully carry out efforts to increase foreign trade. The IMCE director said Mexico's mixed economy and its readiness to trade and maintain relations with Central American countries is well known.

Greater Cooperation Sought

FL201502 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 85

[Excerpts] The president of the Mexican Business Coordinating Council, Jorge A. Chapa Salazar, has said Mexican industrialists are willing to cooperate with Nicaraguan private enterprise to overcome the trade blockade decreed by the United States.

One of the principal agreements reached at the fifth plenary meeting of the Mexican-Nicaraguan Management Committee was the establishment of a joint quadripartite commission consisting of representatives of the governments and managers of the two countries. The delegation of Mexican businessmen is visiting Nicaragua as part of a tour that has included Panama, Cuba, and El Salvador.

Manuel Armendariz, director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (IMCE), has said Mexico will continue to ship crude oil to Nicaragua under the terms established by the San Jose pact. He said Mexico's chief export to Nicaragua is crude oil, which represents 68 percent of total Mexican exports to Nicaragua, while Nicaragua ships sugar, meat, tobacco, and seafood valued at $15 million to Mexico.

COSTA RICA

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. PLANNING TO RESIGN

PA171800 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Costa Rican Ambassador to Washington Fernando Zumbado will resign after several months in the U.S. capital where he presented his credentials. As reported several days ago, Zumbado, a personal friend of Liberation Party presidential candidate Oscar Arias, hopes to be included in the list of candidates for deputies for the next election.

Zumbado's resignation has been confirmed by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who said Zumbado will be replaced. However, he did not announce the name of our country's next diplomatic representative at the White House.

EL SALVADOR

DYNAMITE ATTACK ON INCAFE SHOP REPORTED

PA171645 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1558 GMT 17 May 85

[Excerpt] Losses at the vehicle maintenance shop of the National Coffeee Institute, Incafe, due to damages caused by a dynamite attack carried out this morning amount to 128,000 colons. According to information gathered at the site of the incident, three vehicles were completely destroyed by the fire that broke out after the explosion. Unidentified individuals riding in a private car placed the dynamite there.

Group Claims Responsibility

PA200700 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] The Mardoqueo Cruz Front of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers [PRTC] has claimed responsibility for a dynamite attack yesterday morning against the warehouses and shops of the National Coffee Institute, Incafe, which are located on 18th Avenue North and 11th Streets East. This action, the rebels said, is within the framework of the policy to sabotage the country's economy. In the message claiming responsibility for the dynamite attack, they said that they oppose government positions that favor the coffee producers.

ARMED FORCES JUDGE SHOT TO DEATH IN CAPITAL

PA170226 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 May 85

[Text] We have received a second report following our news story this morning regarding the murder of Dr Rodolfo Araujo, the lawyer whose body is now being taken to a judical center in this capital. He was the victim of an attack by three unidentified men, as reported by Carlos Mario [not further identified] this morning.

We now have another report from Carlos Mario, directly from the site where the attack took place:

[Begin report] That is true, listeners of Radio Cadena YSU. Judge Mario Moysa Martinez has identified the body of Dr Rodolfo Araujo, who was killed early this morning. He was shot several times when traveling along 1st Street West and 21st Avenue North, in front of La Asuncion College.

According to witnesses' reports, three men traveling in a vehicle fired point blank and killed Dr Araujo. The men who perpetrated this crime have not yet been identified. Dr Araujo was traveling in a Mazda, license plate No 54512; he had come to La Asuncion College to drop off his daughter, Isa Araujo, who is a college student. The men shot him at point-blank range, and he died immediately.

According to first reports, which have not been confirmed yet by military authorities, Dr Rodolfo Araujo was a military judge. This has not been confirmed yet, but we will give you further reports on this event throughout the morning. [end report]

According to reports from the judicial center, Dr Rodolfo Araujo was a military judge working for the Salvation Armed Forces. This information was released by the Isidro Mendendez Judicial Center. Therefore, we have confirmed this information before concluding our newscast.

FPL Claims Responsibility

PA210410 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 May 85 p 2

[Text] A spokesman for the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front of the People's Liberation Forces [FPL] called this newspaper today to claim responsibility for the death of First Military Judge Jose Rodolfo Araujo. As we reported yesterday, Araujo was killed outside La Asuncion School in San Salvador as he was dropping off his two daughters. It was reported that two individuals shot him while a third stood guard and waited for the others to flee, leaving Araujo dead and slumped over the steering wheel of his car. The crime occurred at 0715, the time when many parents drop their children off at the school.

The caller added: "We want to warn Jorge Bustamante, director general of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute, and Jose Ricardo Perdomo, president of National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers [ANDA]. Beginning today, they are hereby given a 10-day deadline to solve the labor conflicts at both public service institutions. If they do not comply, we want to advise them that they will be executed, just as Araujo was executed yesterday."

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS DEATH OF JUDGE

PA171850 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The people's justice reaches the officers who are responsible for massacres and bombings. The people's justice reaches the torturers and those who keep secret jails full of Salvadoran patriots. The people's justice reaches everywhere, even the capital.

On 16 May, Rodolfo Arauco, military judge of the first court and an important key in the repressive, corrupt juridical system, was killed. He was also responsible for rigged trials, tortures, and the disappearance of Salvadoran citizens. The people's war is reaching everywhere. There won't be a place where those guilty of crimes and persecution can hide. They will not be safe anywhere. They will not be able to sleep peacefully for a single hour.

Wherever they are they will pay for their crimes just as the bloodthirsty General Jose Medrano; Colonel Cienfuegos, the head of Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], and Daura, the National Police torturer, paid for theirs. As our people know, Mayor Turcios, head of the paratroopers battalion, was also a recent target of guerrilla groups in the capital. Many other criminals suffered the same fate. The war against all of the enemies of the working people will reach everywhere just as it reached Rodolfo Arauco in San Salvador today, 16 May.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES OPPOSES ASSEMBLY BECOMING CONGRESS

PA21005 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2340 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Majia Victores warned today that he will imprison those deputies who want to turn the National Constituent Assembly into a congress with legislative functions.

"I will imprison those who seek to turn the Constituent Assembly into a congress with legislative functions," the president said in a impromptu press conference after installing the annual conference of the International Coffee Organization (OIC).

"They (the deputies) were elected by the people and are not going to assume powers that do not correspond to them. They must fulfill their commitment," the president added.

The morning newspaper "EL GRAFICO" published an article today noting the intent of some deputies to transform the Constituent Assembly into a congress with legislative functions.

The 83 deputies who form the Constituent Assembly were elected last 1 July to draft the new constitution that will become effective in January 1986.

Mejia Victores announced the upcoming repeal of the law that prohibits military men and government officials of the administration of General Romeo Lucas, overthrown by a coup d'etat in 1982, from running for public office.

Assembly Issues Communique

PA210438 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2350 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Guatemala's National Constitutent Assembly refuted a recent statement by Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victories. The Assembly is not seeking to become a congress. At a secret meeting held this afternoon at the Congressional Building, the National Constituent Assembly refuted a statement by General Oscar Mejia Victores who said that he will jail those deputies who want to change that body into a regular congress.

A press communique released a few minutes ago states that at no time did the Assembly president ask the military government to change the legislative body into a regular congress. We, the communique adds, respect the people's wishes; the people elected us to draft the constitution and not to become a congress.

At the National Constituent Assembly's secret meeting this afternoon, the deputies decided to tell the people that the statement alleging that the deputies want to stay on as regular congress are arbitrary, groundless, and seriously damage the existing democratization process. Therefore, the deputies strong rejected Gen Mejia Victores statement and said that once Guatemala's new constitution is completed, which must be before 31 May, the Assembly will be dissolved because it will no longer have a reason to function.

HONDURAS

POLITICAL CRISIS REPORTEDLY SOLVED, AGREEMENT REACHED

PA202331 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] In this morning's edition, the daily LA TRIBUNA carried a big headline saying: the workers and Armed Forces have resolved the crisis. The newspaper reports that the workers have accepted the implementation of their B alternative, which calls for the holding of internal elections together with general elections on 24 November and the restructuring of the Supreme Court headed by Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo.

The agreement could be signed in the next few hours. This radio station has been informed that very important negotiations are taking place with the participation of opposition political leaders, some military commanders, and the labor sector.

Weekend Meeting Termed Successful

PA202333 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Walter Lopez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces; a representative of the Suazo Cordova regime; Honduran business leaders; and labor union leaders have come to an agreement regarding the Honduran political crisis. They met this weekend.

The Suazo Cordova government has partially accepted the workers' demands. The Honduran Government accepts the dismissal of four justices of the former Supreme Court, but is determined to keep the former president of this court in his position. The workers have suspended their threats to hold a general strike. Ramon Valladares Soto, the new president of the Supreme Court, will be released, and there will also be reforms in the Honduran electoral system.

This agreement was made while the president is in the United States.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ENDS EUROPEAN TOUR, RETURNS TO MANAGUA

Meets Finnish President

PA171958 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said in Helsinki that the Scandinavian countries should play a more active role in the search for a peaceful solution to the Central American problems. President Ortega met with his Finnish counterpart, Mauno Koivisto, and Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa.

It was reported that Finland will provide Nicaragua with aid totaling $13 million for the 1985-87 period. This aid will be used for building daries, schools, and hospitals. The president of Finland voiced his moral solidarity with our country and condemned the U.S. trade embargo.

Arrives in Sweden

PA180426 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] President Daniel Ortega arrived in Sweden today for an official visit of some 30 hours that will be devoted to meetings with Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Ortega, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, was received by the Swedish prime minister and Pierre Schori, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

It has been learned that the Swedish Government has ordered an urgent study to determine how Nicaragua can be helped to neutralize the economic embargo recently imposed by U.S. imperialism.

Sweden Increases Imports

PA190331 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 May 85

[Text] The Swedish Government has increased its imports from Nicaragua by $5 million. This increased Swedish cooperation with Nicaragua is the result of a meeting yesterday between Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. It has also been announced that in the next few days the Swedish Government will approve a $2 million contribution to the fund for the emergency in the agricultural sector caused by war. After the victory of the revolution, Sweden delivered nearly $100 million in assistance and cooperation to Nicaragua.

Swedish Reportage

For Stockholm coverage of the visit to Sweden by President Daniel Ortega, see the Sweden subsection of the Nordic Affairs section of the 20 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

To Return Home 20 May

PA200218 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0105 GMT 20 May 85

[Excerpt] Managua, 20 May (DPA) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will return to Managua today, Monday, after a working tour of socialist countries and Western Europe in search of material support following the imposition of the U.S. economic boycott on Nicaragua.

In addition to visiting the nations of the socialist bloc, starting in the Soviet Union and concluding in the GDR, he visited France, Spain, Italy, Finland, and Sweden in a tour that he termed successful in view of the support he obtained for the Sandinist revolution.

Hours after Ortega arrives, Vice President Sergio Ramirez will leave on a tour of several European countries. The politician will visit the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, the FRG, and other nations, according to an official report. Ramirez will be accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga; Joaquin Cuadra, president of the Central Bank; and the deputy minister of foreign trade on a 2-week tour.

Holds Press Conference in Managua

PA202313 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1740 GMT 20 May 85

[Press conference held by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] First, we want to greet the Nicaraguan people upon returning from our tour of several countries, and we would like to make the following remarks:

In April, when the Uruguayan and Brazilian presidents were being inaugurated, Nicaragua was present, not only voicing its solidarity and support for the democratic openings in those countries and its support for Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and the Brazilian president-elect, the late Trancredo Neves, but also availing ourselves of these important Latin American events in order to discuss a subject that is of interest to Latin America. In other words, the problem that has arisen between the United States and Nicaragua is a subject of Latin American interest.

We took some initiatives. In Montevideo we announced an indefinite moratorium on the purchase of new weapons, that we would withdraw 100 Cuban military advisers in May, and we also took the necessary steps in order to eliminate the pretext that some Latin American countries were using for not attending the Contadora meetings. These were the political issues that we discussed.

In the economic field, we talked with the Latin American leaders who were meeting in Montevideo and later in Brasilia concerning the economic aggression situation that Nicaragua was enduring in a direct and indirect manner, overt and covert, from the United States. We discussed the pressures that the United States has been exerting on their governments to cut off all types of aid, cooperation, and assistance to Nicaragua. The United States continues to exert pressures on the Inter-American Development Bank so that it will not approve the $58.6 million loan that would help to develop our country's agricultural sector. This loan would help both private and state sectors; in other words, this loan will benefit all Nicaraguans who are productive and working.

Thus, the first steps we took this year, given the current economic situation and the new measures that we knew would be imposed by the United States, was to talk with Latin American leaders who were aware of the problems in the Central American region and closely followed events in the area. Since this was a Latin American topic, it was to be expected that we would talk to the Latin American leaders, and that is what we did in April.

Since then, since last year, we have been facing problems such as the oil supply. This problem arose after an agreement was reached in San Jose on Venezuelan-Mexican cooperation with the Central American countries in view of the deterioration of the Nicaraguan economy. Due to U.S. aggression, Nicaragua was unable to meet its commitments as established in the San Jose agreement. Therefore, Venezuela ceased supplying Nicaragua with oil and our oil supply from the Mexican Government increased to 100 percent. The Mexican Government generously continued to supply Nicaragua with oil. Because we were aware that we were overburdening Mexico, we sought other alternatives for our oil supply to alleviate Mexico's burden. In this manner, we managed to negotiate oil with the USSR, Algeria, Iran, and Libya. That is how we ended 1984.

By 1985, we were faced with the problem that Nicaragua could not continue its payments for Mexican oil. Even though the payment methods were very good and generous, the deterioration of the Nicaraguan economy made it impossible for Nicaragua to fulfill its commitments. We made new, special efforts before the Mexican Government. We sent Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz to Mexico. He met with President De la Madrid. The truth is that we understand Mexico's difficult situation. They have a very serious financial problem. We know that they have even had to take some very serious domestic measures. They have been forced to close over 250 enterprises. Naturally, under those conditions, Mexico could not adequately supply oil to Nicaragua, which was practically requesting oil on credit for the medium and long term. Nicaragua was unable to pay for the oil even under the favorable terms given to us by Mexico.

By that time -- since April, we had been negotiating a top-level meeting with the USSR. When I attended the funeral services for the USSR's Konstantin Chernenko, I was able to hold a brief discussion on the subject with Mr Gorbachev. However, it was not the proper time, and we did not have time to discuss the issue. We had to leave Moscow immediately for Brasilia.

Therefore, the trip to Moscow was a trip that essentially responded to vital needs that Nicaragua faced with regard to the supply of petroleum because Mexico could no longer continue to fill those needs in view of the form of payment that was proposed by Nicaragua, which, as I said, was practically a line of credit. We made very special efforts with Mexico. We greatly appreciate Mexico's efforts in the economic field, in the field of economic cooperation with Nicaragua.

Mexico's cooperation with our country through the supply of oil, the financing for our balance of payments, and other forms of credit and support to the Nicaraguan people has been truly invaluable. We understand the circumstances. Although the Mexican Government has been very willing to cooperate with Nicaragua, there is the question of distribution. Nicaragua is not in a position to purchase Mexico's oil according to the modes of payment included in the San Jose agreement. Under the circumstances, after having exhausted all efforts at the Latin American level to solve the oil problem, we agreed to hold a meeting in Moscow with our Soviet companeros. The date for that meeting was set. At the time, we are speaking of the month of April, the general opinion was that the voting in the U.S. Congress on the famous $14 million would not take place until May, following President Reagan's return from his trip to Europe.

We are getting into all these details because we know that the U.S. Government tried to manipulate our trip to Moscow. There have been some people in this country who, not acting like Nicaraguan nationals but as agents of the policy of aggression being endured by Nicaragua, have repeated the same accusations against us for making the trip to Moscow.

We want to explain the following, just as we have been pointing out throughout our trip: AT no time in the meetings we held here with U.S. congressmen, before the Congress voted on the $14 million, did we reach an agreement that if they voted the $14 million down that we would sever our relations with the Soviet Union and not go to Moscow again. We did not discuss this at any time. I talked with dozens of U.S. congressmen days before the vote, and we did not discuss this at any time. I told Senator Harkin, who arrived here accompanied by Senator Perry, that I might have to make a very important trip in the next few days because we had problems with our Mexican oil supply. I stated this very clearly at the home of Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto.

In addition, as a matter of principle -- of elementary questions that are forgotten by some people who were accidentally born in Nicaragua but think like foreigners trying to occupy this country, not like friendly foreigners but like foreigners trying to occupy our country, our country is a sovereign country. As far as I know, we are not a state of the United States. Only if we were one could we understand that we would be under the obligation to ask for permission from the U.S. President or the U.S. Congress, or I don't know who according to U.S. laws, to make a trip to Moscow, Montevideo, Brasilia, Paris, or Rome. Nicaragua is not a U.S. colony. It ceased being a U.S. colony in 1979 and everyone must clearly bear this in mind. I think that this must be clearly borne in mind by everyone, particularly by some people here in Nicaragua who want to ignore this reality.

Therefore, our people have entrusted us with the responsibility to solve their problems. These problems are the result of a policy of aggression. They are the result of a terrorist policy that the U.S. Government has been promoting against Nicaragua in the military, economic, and political fields.

Since we had problems due to technical and financial reasons with Mexico, our traditional oil supplier, it was our duty, and it was logical, for us to seek oil from a friendly country. That country is the USSR and it has been granting this cooperation to Nicaragua within a framework of respect, of true friendship. As a result of our meeting with Companero Mikhail Gorbachev, we have been able to solve from 80 to 90 percent of Nicaragua's oil needs for this year. At least that gives us a certain amount of stability as far as our oil supply.

In the USSR, we also found that they were willing to cooperate with Nicaragua in other fields during these difficult moments such as with raw materials and spare parts for the production badly needed by Nicaraguans. In the GDR we found a great deal of understanding and solidarity for Nicaragua and a willingness to help us in very specific manner in order to guarantee us raw materials and food for the Nicaraguan people.

We must add that we found the same attitude among the leaders of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, and Romania. As we know, Yugoslavia does not belong to the socialist bloc but to the Nonaligned Movement. It also offered us understanding and a determination to support the Nicaraguan people.

It was in Belgrade that we learned of the new embargo measures that the United States had launched against our country as part of its constant economic blockade policy against Nicaragua. After touring the socialist countries and Yugoslavia, we continued our tour through Spain, France, Italy, Finland, and Sweden.

Upon our return, through Havana, we met with Companero Fidel Castro and discussed the current situation with him. In our meetings with President Felipe Gonzalez and President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Craxi of Italy, [Prime Minister] Kalevi Sorsa of Finland, and [Prime Minister] Olof Palme of Sweden, we found that we agreed on certain points. We also agreed on points with the leaders of the socialist community and Yugoslavia, and with the Latin American leaders. In other words, we found that the international community, regardless of their political or ideological stands, all shared the same ideas. What are these points of agreement? All of them unanimously agree to continue supporting the Nicaraguan revolution: political pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment.

All of them are aware of this; in Latin America, in the socialist community countries, Yugoslavia, and the Western European countries we visited. All of them concur in rejecting all policies of force against Nicaragua, whether in the economic, military, or political areas; and all agree that the problems must be settled through dialogue. Therefore, these countries agree that the Manzanillo talks between the United States and Nicaragua must be resumed in order to normalize relations. They all truly support the Contadora Group.

Another point of agreement is the unanimous rejection of the U.S. embargo and the reaffirmation of trade and economic relations with Nicaragua. In sum, although almost everyone received a telephone call or message from U.S. President Reagan, none of the countries I visited joined the embargo. Regarding some countries... [rephrases] Some leaders from Western Europe who had just met with Reagan in Bonn rejected his embargo at that time. Therefore, we found that there is unanimity among all these countries of diverse political and ideological views. We found that there is a unanimous rejection of the policy of force, of the trade embargo. We also found that these countries are willing to do their utmost to readjust existing mechanisms of cooperation with Nicaragua to the new situation that has arisen from the embargo.

In Rome we met with FAO Secretary General Edouard Saouma and discussed with him the need for extraordinary aid to Nicaragua during this very difficult time. We are pleased with the results of these meetings over a 25-day period, including today. In 25 days we visited 14 countries, including Cuba, and remained in each country an average of 1.7 days, meaning we stayed less than 2 days in each country. Therefore, we tried to speed up the meetings. Although all the leaders we met with had prior commitments, were on vacation and so forth, they acceded to our request for a meeting. It is worth noting that as these meetings were taking place, there were demonstrations of the peoples' solidarity and affection towards the Nicaraguan people everywhere we went.

Therefore, we feel that the results were positive, although Nicaragua's economic problems have not disappeared. The cooperation we have worked for in the political, economic, and commercial areas will not solve our problems. The political problem will not be solved until the United States decides to seriously negotiate with Nicaragua. The economic problem is so profound that cooperation itself will fall far short of meeting Nicaragua's needs. However, with this cooperation, using these resources well, and making greater efforts with regard to efficiency, savings, and productivity, the Nicaraguan people [words indistinct] multiplying these resources and also being consistent with the solidarity of the brother countries which are giving us these resources.

We cannot expect that the problem will be solved just with the granting of these resources. Instead, these resources will help us to better face the economic problems. They will allow our economy to survive. We have gone to Europe to ask for cooperation in order to make the Nicaraguan economy survive. This was clearly stated in a communique issued by the Swedish Government after our meeting with Prime Minister Palme.

An economy of survival is a very (?dangerous) economy. It is an economy that poses several questions and that cannot create expectations of a bonanza or abundance. It is a matter of facing difficulties with great limitations but [words indistinct] the Nicaraguan economy. This is what we are achieving.

What does this mean? It means that the United States will not be able to defeat Nicaragua militarily or through economic strangulation. It is true that the blockade has its effects on us, but international cooperation is greater than the policy of economic strangulation imposed by the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government cannot prosper through a military path using the mercenary forces that are being defeated by the Nicaraguan people. Once the U.S. Government, and particularly the bad U.S. presidential advisers, realize that economic strangulation will never force the Nicaraguan people to surrender or to demoralize them, then they will have to find a negotiated political solution. In the meantime, we will be here firmly resisting, working, and fighting because the only thing left for those who wrongly advise President Reagan is for them to say: Well, if we cannot defeat the Nicaraguan people by using the mercenary forces or economic strangulation, then all we have left is direct intervention with our troops.

These are the kinds of proposals that those who wrongly advise President Reagan would have to make. However, we are ready to face a direct intervention if it occurs. Nevertheless, we continue to think that it would not be the best solution to this problem for the United States, Nicaragua, or Latin America. For this reason, we maintain that all the efforts we have made are aimed at the survival of the Nicaraguan economy. This is the least we can do. This is an obligation we have to the people, the Nicaraguan workers, peasants, youth, combatants, women, and all of the workers [as heard] of Nicaragua. It is our obligation. Our efforts were aimed in this direction. We feel that the political response was solidaristic with Nicaragua and that the economic response will help Nicaraguans face these difficulties in order to win the battle for peace in the end. We are involved in what can be described as the battle for peace. Thank you.

[Moderator] Here ends [words indistinct]. Now, we will have a question-and-answer session with President Ortega.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from Brazil's Radio (Guaiba). At exactly what point during your tour of the socialist community did you decide to extend your trip to other European countries?

[Ortega] Well, actually we planned this before leaving Nicaragua, but we had not made the necessary contacts. However, when we learned of the embargo while in Yugoslavia, it was very important to establish contacts with Western European rulers to discuss this new situation provoked by the U.S. Government. Yugoslavia published a report on Mexican President De la Madrid's comments on the embargo against Nicaragua.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from German television. Concerning your visit to the GDR, you made some statements that concerned the FRG Government. Do you have any comments?

[Ortega] I only described a situation where [words indistinct]. The truth is that the FRG has severed its cooperation with Nicaragua. We would like to see this situation change. I think that the only way to improve this situation is through direct talks with Mr Kohl.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Commander Ortega, can you tell us the amount of aid granted by (?Spain) [words indistinct] as well as more details on the oil agreement with the USSR?

[Ortega] Well, as I have said, the most important issue was the oil supply. The USSR was already supplying Nicaragua with oil and now they are increasing the supply. As far as the other cooperation we discussed with the socialist countries and Western Europe, we believe this assistance will help the Nicaraguan people to face this survival economy. I do not believe it is necessary to give any figures.

[Magana] Magana, of the Mexican Television Institute. You stated that there are technical, financial, and economic problems regarding the oil supply. Does this mean that Mexico will not supply Nicaragua with more oil?

[Ortega] We currently have an oil deficit to meet. If we can meet our payments, Mexico is willing to supply Nicaragua with all the oil it needs. The channel for supplying Mexican oil to Nicaragua remains open.

[Ibarra] Ezequiel Ibarra, from Mexico. Concerning your most recent trip, we have observed a very serious polarization over Nicaragua. El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala say Nicaragua is becoming a satellite. The same is being said in Costa Rica. How will you be able to coexist with your Central American neighbors?

[Ortega] We are going to continue our efforts so the Central American leaders will adopt a responsible, harmonious attitude and therefore reestablish peace in Central America. We have not lost hope; we must continue to fight. Although we know that some governments have very negative attitudes concerning these efforts, we know they are victims of U.S. pressures. They are instruments of U.S. policy. Often, the Central American leaders do things against their will because they are pressured by the United States. However, in the long run the feelings of patriotism and unity will prevail among the Central American rulers. They also have a responsibility to their respective peoples.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation.

RAMIREZ SPEAKS AT SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

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[Speech by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, acting president of Nicaragua, during the 25th anniversary ceremony at the School of Journalism, held at the Central American University campus in Managua -- live]

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, member of the FSLN's National Directorate; Companeros, especially Msgr Mendez Arceo [Msgr Sergio Mendez Arceo, archbishop of Cuernavaca], you are always welcome to your homeland, Nicaragua; and companeros:

When the companero director of the School of Journalism asked me to deliver the closing words of this event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the School of Journalism he also asked me to make some remarks regarding the ideological struggle, and this is what I shall attempt to do.

We will begin by saying that very few social phenomena and political happenings have caught the world's attention in the past few years as has the Sandinist revolution. After being an isolated and forgotten country, Nicaragua has become a source of constant news and the subject of debates of the media, parliaments, universities, mass movements, and unions, and each time Nicaragua is attacked these institutions react and mobilize to demonstrate in the streets of many cities. Governments, political parties, and international organizations must adopt a position each time Nicaragua is brought up. We could very well say that the revolution is one of the constant news sources of this decade.

Undoubtedly, this importance is based on the confrontation unleashed by the U.S. Government against a small nation and its revolution, and in the face of this constant aggression, with a firm attitude in defense of its principles, the revolution has remained steadfast. We would not be such an important piece of news if the Reagan administration were not bent on making this country give in; nor would we be news if, to satisfy the imperialist voracity, we would have already yielded. Should this occur, the spotlight would be turned off, and we would once again find ourselves surrounded by the darkness of disinterest, and we would be forgotten.

Evidently, throughout the world the issue of Nicaragua is part of the overall struggle that our revolution must wage beyond its border and where the same enemy we know is bent on winning the battle by trying to discredit us and, according to them, isolate us. In doing so, the final blow they wish to give would be better prepared. Therefore, we are in the middle of a real propaganda war, an ideological confrontation; and the U.S. Government is investing huge amounts of human, material, and technical resources to win this battle. However, we, who do not have those material resources to challenge this enormous power, must always know how to use our intelligence and ability to make the truth, which continues to be our most powerful weapon, shine through.

In this confrontation, which we see daily in the communications media, especially those of the United States, Latin America, and Europe, there are a number of plans to attack the revolution drafted by the enemy's propaganda machinery and implemented by various techniques and schemes. Some of these plans are of a constant nature and are repeated over and over in television reports, newspaper articles, and in the deep thoughts of an editorial. We, the leaders of the revolution, can very easily identify these plans because they always come up during a press conference.

These questions, which we could call sophisticated [plastico] plans, and I can say this because of the years of interview experience, are: 1. The revolution pursues a totalitarian system; 2. Nicaragua is attempting to be a base for Soviet penetration in Central America to challenge the interests of U.S. national security; 3. Nicaragua is the field of confrontation in the East-West struggle; 4. Nicaragua is attempting a revolution without borders and systematically exports its revolution; 5. Nicaragua's excessive militarism only shows its expansionist goals; its Army is ready, in the offensive sense, to invade and occupy the other countries of the area; and in conclusion, as long as the Sandinist Front does not initiate a true national dialogue to include those up in arms there will be no possibility for peace in the country.

From these primary plans, secondary plans are made. These then branch out and take on different hues and it is not surprising that in Shultz' note officially informing us of the U.S. trade embargo the majority of the arguments used were repeated, precisely because they are the same ideological arguments used against the revolution and which are the best weapons to justify the military and economic aggression. The way these overall plans grow and consolidate, they become irrefutable elements within the United States and the Western countries allied with the United States, then the Reagan administration will be winning territory that will make it easier for them to deal stronger blows. The most cherished of these blows, the one the White House extremists cherish the most, is direct military intervention.

However, I will not dwell on these obvious and highly questionable plans tonight. Instead, I want to share with you some thoughts on the ideological confrontation in Nicaragua, illustrating these with current developments. Before I begin, however, I would like to point out that the so-called fundamental attack plans that are implemented at the international level are also implemented here, with variations and adaptations for a less sophisticated environment. I am compelled to make this clarification because the ideological confrontation that has emerged around Nicaragua takes on the most complex, varied, and contrasting forms, which are applied in Nicaragua as well, but on a smaller scale. They include the complaints made by intellectuals, who claim that humanistic values have been lost and confiscated by the totalitarian nature of the revolution, statements that maintain that Western values are being jeopardized in Nicaragua, where so much is spent on armaments instead of on the development of the arts and sciences, and the complex political alternatives proposed in lengthy articles by writers, scholars, and experts who are actually seeking the collapse of the revolution's power.

However, fundamentally speaking, the [word indistinct] enter Nicaragua already cut down to size for local use. They need no decorations or disguises. They do not need to be spruced up as democratic leftist plans, moderate leftist plans, optional plans for revolution with freedom, or even as proposals with a centrist hue or seeking an alleged balance or taking sides with no one. Nothing.

These are the same meager, hysterical, barefaced tenets of the Moonies, copied to the letter but with a local flavor. This is provincial primitivism, which we see every day displayed in antediluvian news and headlines; yellow journalism approaches; and editorial pages have now replaced the crime pages. This is the strategy of the mastodon; the extreme right wing live and in full color.

To be fair, we must say that this phenomenon exists not only within our borders. This applies also to the entire Central American press, which is identified with the central plans of aggression against Nicaragua.

One must see to what degree so many Central American newspapers resemble the defunct LA PRENSA GRAFICA of [words indistinct] and one would have to remove the dust from the collections of this newspaper, which must be somewhere, to enable journalism students to make comparative analyses, which would be very educational and instructive because all of these mechanisms of a most ridiculous anticommunism, which became famous in Nicaragua during Somoza's era, appeared in them, rampant and alive, since then. They are now being used to prove what Somoza and his propagandists so alarmingly claimed, i.e., that the Sandinists were terrorists; that they did not respect morals or customs; that their political platform called for putting an end to family and religion; to liquidate all types of private property' to enslave Nicaraguans; to (?poison) the minds of children with strange ideas.

Someday, Somoza often said, they will repent and ask me to return. Many of those who write in LA PRENSA today are already doing so by reminding us that even though we hate to admit it, we were better off before and happier, because there was plenty of everything.

Yes, there was plenty of everything, including the blood-selling business and paid assassins to silence anyone who denounced such business and other dishonest dealings. It was during those golden days, which stir so much nostalgia in some people, that they murdered Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Thus I would like to refer first of all to that claim that we were better off before because there was plenty of everything. Such an assertion is often presented as something sublime in order to induce readers, through a number of manipulated reports, photos, and orchestrated opinions, to reach that conclusion. There are two important elements that conform to such a thesis: in the first place, selfishness and vested interests affected one way or another by the revolution and the privileges never questioned by the Somozist regime for some groups; and in the second place, the deliberate omission of the military and economic aggression presently affecting the country.

On the basis of those two elements it is easy to conclude that the scarcity of food, the long lines to purchase basic goods, the lack of spare parts needed to keep vehicles and other machinery in operation; the deterioration of movie theaters; the condition of roads; the lack of cosmetics, and the empty shelves in the supermarkets are actually the result of a deliberate plan by the Sandinists to create difficulties and scarcity.

Anticommunism identifies the long lines with socialism -- there are long lines because that is the characteristic of a revolution; therefore, there should no longer be a revolution so that the long lines may disappear. In Somoza's time there were no long lines, and the supermarkets had everything. Let Somoza return!

From that let us move on to the following assertion: The government of the bigwheels [capitostes] is incompetent and does not know how to govern. A preliminary paragraph is included on the term bigwheels, which the experts of LA PRENSA are now including in their yellow journalism. Only the traditional classes, with their experience in public affairs and the wisdom obtained from tradition and the ownership of farms and factories qualify to govern properly. Somoza was no upstart. He was a proprietor, and we know what kind of proprietor he was. Therefore, the term bigwheels, as applied to the Sandinists means nothing but upstart. Colonel Aquiles Aranda called them [word indistinct], 15 September Radio calls them big chiefs, and LA PRENSA now calls them bigwheels. It all narrows down to the old classist premise that there is nothing worse than putting an Indian in charge of pouring the drinks.

But, gentlemen, the [word indistinct] does not accept that the war has brought destruction, damage to the economy, scarcity, and poverty to the country. They just charge that it is the goverment that does not know how to govern; therefore it must be replaced along with all the Sandinist ideas and projects by something having the flavor long familiar to the old gents: the hard economy of a free market, where only those who have the means will eat; where children are vaccinated only if the parents can pay a pediatrician; where there are notebooks and pencils only for those who can afford them; where the worker displeased with his wages takes to the streets, and if he protests the guard occupies the factory; and where if he is not satisfied with the filthy hole he occupies with his wife and children, there is Colonel Juan Angel Lopez in the banana plantation to settle his complaint. Such was the agrarian reform of those times when there was plenty of everything. This was achieved over the bodies of the peasants who were stripped of their rights.

They are demanding prosperity in the midst of a war, and since we Sandinists are incapable of governing, we are also incapable of returning the faith to those who, among other things, have lost their confidence, and we must, therefore, go on the next proposal. We must manage by ourselves.

On this issue there is also a deliberate fundamental omission, which is that between them, who are only a few, and us, we find the Yankee. If the Nicaraguan family were living in harmony there would be no war; this is what they say. Therefore it is necessary to hold a dialogue to include everyone: those who write LA PRESNA's yellow journalism, those desk businessmen who no longer keep accounting books; and the leadership of the democratic parties who refused to participate in the elections. These parties resemble the empty shelves in a grocery store, and someone who cannot be suspected of being aligned with Sandinism, as is Mario Vargas Llosa, described them in an article for THE NEW YORK TIMES as nothing but managers without customers. When speaking of this family we cannot forget its most important members with whom we are supposed to talk: the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] task force commanders and Colonel Bermudez, who are also Nicaraguans, the only difference being that they are armed, uniformed, and fed with CIA C-rations and drink canned Coca Cola supplied by their supreme leader, Calero Portocarrero.

This implies the need for a patriotic dialogue because it is supposed that the 4 November elections are not valid and, since the government is not genuine, it has to be diminished or the FSLN must share the government immediately with guards, [words indistinct], open the door to caskets, motivate assasins, and wait for the bodies of our young men to begin showing up, dismembered again, at the doors of (?El Bluff).

The bigwheels tell us the United States does not exist, nor does the Reagan administration's ill will and obsession to destroy the revolution, or the Yankee military power, lying in wait with its rapid-deployment forces, or its bases in Honduras. The only thing that exists is this weakened and dark Nicaraguan family rent by civil war. In order to prove this, they resort to [words indistinct]. According to (?Pietro Lada), the poor are those who are dying.

The yellow press big shots want to disclose the mystery through the [word indistinct] what secular war would have to be waged in Nicaragua in order to maintain the nation's integrity and consolidate the revolution if those up in arms were alone [words indistinct]?

The soldiers of the old Somozist guard were recruited from the people. Poor peasants were taught to kill, maim, torture, and [words indistinct] the guard's uniform to those unemployed and those expelled by the consumption society's market laws that now awaken in false nostalgia. The white-gloved gentlemen did not do the dirty work, but Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was murdered by aristocrats and not by men with common names.

The ideological mechanisms were always activated to convince and force the poor to arm against their own interests. The northern peasants, abducted and pressured by the same old guard, are again told that they must rise against those who want to harm their cattle and poultry, close their chapels, persecute their religion, abduct their children, and enslave their women to send them to Russia in chains. This myth does not represent the Nicaraguan poor's interests or those of those who have been deceived and forced to take up arms against their revolution and country. To defeat the counterrevolution does not mean defeating the peasants' historical interests. These peasants have been deceived and [words indistinct] by primitive propaganda and the exploitation of their fears, by an artful invasion and distortion of their world of values still untouched by the deep, vital transformation that the revolution plans for the backward society that we inherited.

To defeat the counterrevolution, its ideological platforms, its political goals, its primitive objectives, and its willingness to submit to foreign control means ensuring the interests of all the Nicaraguan poor, with whom the Yankees' loyal stepsons have nothing in common, although at the border areas some peasants have been forced, through physical or ideological terror, to take up arms. In order to complete the other side of the coin, the following falsehood is usually added: The FSLN war is the war of a party. In this way the false conclusion is reached that if the war is of a party, the FSLN must fend for itself as a party, and the people must remain out of the military conflict in which the national interest is not at stake. It is a war that serves only to defend an ideology alien to the Nicaraguan character. The consequences are simple. Since this is a clash exclusively between the FSLN and the U.S. Government, those ideologically, effectively, and politically on the U.S. side do not have to offer any pretexts for not identifying with the Nicaraguan nation in the conflict.

However, there is more. Since they do not feel comfortable in a neutral position either, they try to express their increasingly open support for the United States, thus laying aside the tricks [words indistinct]. By being free to identify in this way, they also want to identify the whole nation and people and turn the people into allies of their own enemies. As is already well known, this is an old story. We were familiar with it in the days of Sandino. It was not the nation against the invaders but a ragged, illiterate, miserable and resentful minority who confronted the foreign intervention with poor weapons and never recognized courage. On supporting the invaders, the big shots said that they represented the country's feelings.

An armed party that defends extremist interests and that, in addition -- due to its irresponsible and dangerous policy of alignment with the communist countries -- has elicited the just wrath of the U.S. Government. This is the essence of the persecution that follows. To be an enemy of the United States is to be irresponsible and reckless. What this assertion expresses, which we hear so often, is a historical fear of true independence. After all, the old lords believed that the country can go forward only if it is allied with U.S. interests, and any attempt at independence in the past was a reckless action in their eyes, not to speak of a true revolution that now assumes the nation's full independence as part of its political project, as well as coexistence with the United States but not submission or surrender.

There is no way out for the country, except under U.S. political and economic influence, according to this proposal. Those who are frightened because Nicaragua now proclaims its independence do not want to admit that from the country's force and prestige come precisely this irreducible, principled position. They don't want to or can't see it. After all, President Reagan only wants good for Nicaragua: the restoration of lost pluralism and a return to democracy, the old and perfect democracy betrayed by the Sandinists.

Here too, the proposal is primitive. This irresponsible confrontation becomes the source of all evil. Why was the U.S. Government forced to impose the economic blockade on Nicaragua? Because of President Daniel Ortega's bold action of traveling to Moscow. It is that simple and direct. President Reagan reluctantly pulled the blockade out of his sleeve only as a response to President Ortega's challenge of traveling to the USSR without permission. Therefore we made the following analysis.

The blockade is harming the innocent. The innocent are those who would have asked Reagan for permission to travel to Moscow if they were in the government; we say this assuming that such an absurd idea could cross their minds. The innocent are those having nothing or wanting nothing to do with the irresponsible and bold actions of the Sandinists; they are being inadvertently punished by the U.S. Government action that is not selective or directed at a specific target, but aimed at harming the entire country, including a host of innocent people, who are already loudly and clearly proclaiming their innocence, because they do not want to be mistaken for the real culprits.

Why did President Ortega go to the USSR and other Socialist countries? According to them, he went to beg for aid. The yellow press states that we can no longer do things on our own; that we are incapable of producing what we used to produce; that is why we travel to far-away nations to ask for handouts. From this we conclude: Nicaragua now lives off international charity.

One day we read in the press that the last straw is that we now have to bring sugar handouts from Vietnam; we bring yellow sugar, as the yellow press stated, without even covering up the racist overtones of the statement. That is, everything that is yellow or black is inferior, even sugar. How can those who describe any act of solidarity as extremist and [word indistinct] understand what solidarity is? According to them, we are now even requesting aid in exotic countries, from communist and atheistic countries such as Vietnam. How can we explain to them that the Vietnamese voluntarily sent us the only thing that they, as a poor and suffering people, could afford that is sugar, yellow sugar. It is not worth the effort to try. Those [words indistinct] there was never a war in Vietnam. To them, that country was never attacked; B-52's never bombed its fields and cities; napalm was never dropped. To them, the aggressive war against Vietnam is only a communist myth, just as the aggressive war against Nicaragua is a Sandinist invention.

So much for that. Tonight I wanted to comment on counterrevolutionary propaganda and its most select mechanisms to contribute in some way to the task of this school that should teach us how to brilliantly defend ourselves against ambushes in this dirty war, prepare our weapons properly, oil them intelligently, and handle them efficiently and imaginatively. We are sure that on this combat front, as on many others, we will achieve a final victory. We are already doing that. Their lies, sorcery, and subterfuge will again return to the kingdom of shadows where they belong. Days of light will belong to the revolution. [applause]

RAMIREZ MEETS PRESS, DEPARTS FOR EUROPE

PA201724 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1647 GMT 20 May 85

[Press Conference held by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Ramierz Mercado] We are leaving for Vienna, Austria where we will begin a tour of several European countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, and the FRG.

This is a trip that the revolutionary government has entrusted me with, and it complements the trip Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, the president of the Republic, is ending. He will be arriving in the country in the next few minutes. Do you have any questions?

[Question indistinct]

[Ramirez Mercado] We are going to consolidate the support our country has already received from all the EEC countries in the face of the U.S. embargo against Nicaragua. We are also going to strengthen the political and economic relations with these countries and try to open new paths of cooperation. We will also meet with EEC officials in Brussels.

[Question indistinct]

[Ramirez Mercado] The delegation is made up of Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, Central Bank President; Companera Nora Astorga, deputy foreign minister; and Companero Pedro Antonio Blandon, deputy minister for foreign cooperation. Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca will join us in Europe.

[Question indistinct]

[Ramirez Mercado] We have a very busy schedule for the FRG which includes a meeting with Foreign Minister Genscher, and we are sure that the meeting we requested with Chancellor Kohl will be confirmed in the next few days.

[Question indistinct]

[Ramirez Mercado] No, there are normal relations bewteen the FRG and Nicaragua, and we do not see that there is any deterioration. Thank you.

FURTHER ON 16 MAY ATTACK ON BLUEFIELDS

PA171629 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] annihilated 51 Somozist mercenaries in various parts of Zelaya Department yesterday. A group of contras who tried to seize the city of Bluefields at dawn yesterday was intercepted on the city's outskirts by EPS troops, which inflicted 24 casualties on the contras and seized a large amount of military supplies. According to a Defense Ministry report, yesterday, as part of the operation launched by the EPS on the 9th in Zelaya Department, the contras sustained 27 casualties in Cano Piaco, 34 km northeast of San Pedro del Norte. According to Javier Altamirano, chief of southern Zelaya's 54th Military Brigade, among the fallen mercenaries there are two leaders known as Mano Negra and (Tapo). The Defense Ministry added that on Wednesday a group of counterrevolutionaries attacked the community of Laguna de Perlas, 35 km northwest of Bluefields, where 20 casualties were inflicted on Reagan's mercenaries.

ARDE Suffers 64 Casualties

PA172005 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The counterrevolutionary organization Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] suffered 64 casualties in its frustrated attempt to seize the city of Bluefields, the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA reported citing official sources at the Defense Ministry.

The contra columns tried to attack the Laguna de Perlas community on Wednesday and Bluefields yesterday, but they were rapidly and forcefully repelled by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the militias, which inflicted 44 dead and 20 wounded on them.

The report stressed that during the first half of May, the EPS inflicted 343 casualties on the counterrevolutionaries, including 251 dead in 60 clashes in various areas of the country.

'Insurgent Outbreak' Reported

PA181353 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1329 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] San Jose, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The attempt by a special anti-Sandinist command to seize three cities located in Nicaragua's Atlantic coast yesterday was a popular uprising against the Nicaraguan Government.

The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) command announced today through rebel station Voice of Sandino, which braodcasts from Sarapiqui, Nicaragua, that the "insurgent outbreak" had been led by the internal resistance of the ARDE forces loyal to Eden Pastora. The anti-Sandinist attempt to seize Bluefields, on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, cost the lives of 24 rebels of a 200-man strong command.

According to the radio station, these developments stem from the negative conditions that currently exist in that country. The rebel command also "regretted" that, "due to a shortage of ammunition," this time the rebel columns could not give sufficient support to the international resistance." According to Voice of Sandino, "this is why all the forces operating deep in Nicaraguan territory, especially those fighting in the Atlantic, could not participate in coordinated actions." However, the station added, it has been demonstrated as in the past, Nicaraguans are "willing to give their lives in order to achieve freedom."

NUNEZ ON RIFTS WITHIN OPPOSITION PARTIES

PA171958 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 May 85 p 5

[Text] National Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez warns that the intensification of U.S. attacks will result in further changes in the attitude and actions of political parties, and in their stance toward Washington's economic blockade.

The Sandinist leader analyzed recent attempts by certain groups to join and form blocs to exert more pressure inside and outside parliament, adding that these kinds of political maneuvers do not prosper because the revolutionary principles are upheld.

Nunez said that there are four clearly defined positions toward the revolution in the national political spectrum. One of them is the one assumed by the extreme rightists, who hope that a U.S. intervention will hurt the revolutionary government. Among them, he mentioned the groups of the so-called "Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board," (CDN) and Higher Council Of Private Enterprise [COSEP] top leaders.

Nunez added that another position is that of the undecided parties, whose stance is ambiguous at a time of definitive positions. A third position is one assumed by Independent Liberal Party (PLI) leader Virgilio Godoy, who is trying to become "a reliable option" and strengthen his political leadership after the CDN and Arturo Cruz failed as a national alternative, he said.

He added: The fourth position is "an attitude of apparent firm support for the revolution, but that in reality is political opportunism, to take advantage of the economic crisis in order to gain social support, as is the case of certain parties that call themselves communist."

"The political parties that are not capable of representing the social sectors as they should are progressively heading for a crisis, and instead of becoming stronger are becoming divided," Commander Nunez said. As an example, he noted that in the case of the PLI there is a sector that even though it does not have a public status as such, is determined to rescue the party's historical background as an anti-Somozist and anti-interventionist movement. Nunez admitted that recently, many representatives who had previously maintained an intransigent position are now trying to close ranks against the attacks, as was demonstrated Tuesday with the support given to the parliamentarian repudiation of the U.S. blockade. However, some prefer not to commit themselves, and act cowardly toward the war of aggression, Nunez concluded. These contradictions within several political parties became evident during yesterday's session, when the PLI's Godoy expressed his anger by walking out after the PLI representatives voted in favor of Article 3 of the assembly's regulations, which sanctions the withdrawal of parliamentarians from the assembly without a valid reason.

On several occasions, PLI representatives Juan Manuel Gutierrez and Eduardo Coronado added their votes to those of the congressional majority, for the approval of 36 additional articles in the internal regulations, dealing with the procedures during the sessions, the assembly's structure, and the functions of the members of the board of directors and of the working commissions.

MINISTRY TO TAKE OVER STAPLE DISTRIBUTION

PA171545 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] The distribution of staple products by parallel market outlets will gradually be phased out until that function is completely absorbed by the Domestic Trade Ministry's [Micoin] popular exchanges, which will eventually be the exclusive distributors of staples, Henry Montano, Micoin's general director for supplies, reported this morning. He said that thus far parallel market outlets have stopped selling soap, deodorant, rice, sugar, tissue, cooking oil, and sanitary napkins. Micoin adopted this measure by which supermarkets will stop distributing staples to guarantee the distribution of staples through Micoin's territorial distribution network, the Nicaraguan Basic Food Enterprise outlets, and commissaries to the Nicaraguan people, Montano said.

COTTON GROWERS THREATEN TO LET FIELDS GO IDLE

PA171632 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] Nicaraguan cotton growers are threatening to let their fields go idle this season unless the government makes prices retroactive. The country's major cotton growers said that they will not plant this season if the government refuses to make prices retroactive to include the 1984-85 harvest. Commander Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, reacted by stating that those growers who refuse to plant their crops with a view toward the 1985-86 season will be the object of intervention and expropriations in keeping with the Agrarian Reform Law. The cotton growers met in Chinandega and agreed they will not begin this season's cycle until the government makes the price of 3,000 cordobas per quintal of cotton retroactive. Cotton is Nicaragua's second most important export product. At the beginning of the harvest the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform fixed the price at 1,100 cordobas per quintal, increasing it to 1,800 cordobas per quintal. The National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen felt that that price would cover production costs.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO RADIO MARTI BROADCASTS

Ties With U.S. Affected

PA201432 Paris AFP in Spanish 1258 GMT 20 May 85

[By Andre Birukoff]

[Excerpts] Havana, 20 May (AFP) -- Observers estimated today that relations between Cuba and the United States will begin a new period of grave tension following the Cuban Government's suspension of immigration agreements between the two countries signed in December. According to the same observers, this highly significant measure was prompted by the U.S. decision to finally implement a project that had been delayed for more than 3 years: the creation of Radio Marti, an anti-Castro station.

A few hours before the transmissions scheduled for 0930 GMT today began, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, who signed the immigration agreements with the United States on 14 December, announced the decision of his government to James Todd, an official of the U.S. Interests section in Cuba. Questioned by newsmen after the meeting, Todd, who was visibly uneasy because of the meeting, refused to make any statements.

In fact, at first glance the Cuban response seems to be unusually severe and even out of proportion. A radio station which, up to now, the Cubans themselves had not taken too seriously, has caused an almost total break in the immigration flow between the two countries that had been restored only last year through four sessions of difficult negotiations.

A small group of former political prisoners accompanied by their families, 28 in all, left Havana this week at the same moment the government was announcing its decision and it seems that they will be the last group to leave the country for a long time.

However, the Cuban response to Radio Marti does not only involve the immigration agreements. In fact, according to observers, what is really being questioned now is the possibility of a dialogue between Cuba and the United States. The communique issued by the Cuban Government and delivered to the foreign press states that Havana also suspends "every type of trip to Cuba by Cuban-born individuals residing in the United States, except for cases which are strictly humanitarian."

According to today's official communique, Havana could take "additional measures" concerning "communications" between Cuba and the United States. This point was not explained any further, but it could involve the total banning of trips by U.S. citizens -- trips which are already very unusual because U.S. laws only allow trips for study purposes or trips by newsmen.

The Cuban Government decided to put an end to its "unilateral collaboration" with the United States. This refers to "illegal exits" from Cuba and also, it seems, to the hijacking of planes or even the drug trafficking -- referred to, apparently, as "other activities" in the official communique. The Cuban Government had been applying very severe measures to hijackers and easily granted the extradition of drug traffickers. According to observers, things could be very different now.

In conclusion, the communique states that the Cuban Government reserves the right to also air medium wave transmissions to the United States. This had been tried in 1982 and the Cuban transmissions had created interference for many U.S. stations.

Government Issues Declarations

PA202343 Havana International Service in Spanish 2308 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] A declaration issued by the Cuban Government in the wake of the initial broadcasts of the so-called Radio Marti in the United States has been distributed as an official document of the UN General Assembly. Oscar Oramas Oliva, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, had requested such an action in a letter to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of that international organization. For several years Cuba has been denouncing official U.S. plans to meddle in Cuban affairs through broadcasts of that radio station before the UN Information Committee and the General Assembly's Special Policy Commission.

Commentary Scores Broadcasts

FL210235 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 85

[NTV commentary on Radio Marti entitled "When Cuba Speaks," by unidentified author; read by announcer Manolo Ortega]

[Text] When Cuba speaks everyone listens, the well-known U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES said recently. The U.S. Administration is obviously trying to silence such an assertion.

Just when the U.S. press is releasing objective articles on Cuban relations with the rest of Latin American countries, Washington goes against every line of reason and makes new attacks. This is the only way one can refer to the beginning of operations of the insulting broadcast station which offends the national dignity.

Ronald Reagan's government leaves behind the rhetoric used in the past and reedits propagandist measures which remind us of the ones used in the 60's with the creation of Radio Swan, Free Cuba, and others, all paid for and directed by the CIA. History shows that the United States has a lot of experience with this tactic. In 1950 it founded Radio Freedom against the USSR and later Free Europe for the entire socialist community. When the U.S. press says that if Cuba speaks it is heard, it only means that Cuba, together with the rest of the continent's countries, seeks a fair solution to the foreign debt problem which is choking most of those nations.

Washington's reaction, although it was part of an old plan, shows very clearly the weak point in its economic relations with Latin America and when it attacks Cuba, it is also indirectly doing the same to other Latin American countries.

Nicaragua's Ramirez Comments

FL210124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] During a brief stopover at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport en route to Europe, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez commented on the counterrevolutionary radio station beginning its broadcasting today.

[Begin Ramirez recording] We believe that this is a time when the U.S. Administration is illogically attempting to create tension, unnecessary tension, after such a difficult accord had been reached, so laboriously negotiated between Cuba and the United States, on immigration matters.

This is a very unpremeditated way of risking, as they have, this kind of accord which showed the relaxing of Cuban-U.S. relations. Now this unpremeditated U.S. resolution has provoked an understandable reaction by the Cuban Government which revoked the effects of that accord. Maybe this will make the U.S. Administration realize that it is not taking the right path.

However, it is of concern that the U.S. Administration does not react within the context of these attitudes but on an impulse, without rationally studying the situation but acting on what this impulse itself represents. This is the same attitude we have observed in U.S. relations with Nicaragua. [end of recording]

Argentina's Perez Esquivel Comments

PA201337 Havana International Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel from Buenos Aires by unidentified reporter -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Perez Esquivel] The decision to install Radio Marti is yet another phase of U.S. aggression against Latin American peoples. It is regrettable that these developments should take place, causing even greater discomfort and concern among the peoples. I think this should be denounced and rejected by the entire world. A request that this measure be reviewed should be made; specifically, the U.S. Congress and people in general should be addressed so they will prevent the continued aggression of peoples in this manner. I think this makes detente and the achievement of hemispheric peace more difficult.

[Reporter] Perez Esquivel, I would like to hear your view on the Cuban Government's stance on U.S. aggression and on the defense of our America's interests.

[Perez Esquivel] I agree with the declaration issued [by Cuba] because the Latin American countries are truly unable to pay this foreign debt. One must try to denounce these actions, which hurt all Latin American peoples. I think that at this stage, when we must seek the paths of peace and detente, reach agreements and a new international economic order, and seek to solve our hemisphere's hunger and poverty problems, it is both immoral and illegal to act in this manner. Therefore I wish to say that we are seriously concerned over this new stage of aggression.

[Reporter] Finally, Perez Esquivel, I would like to know if you find it logical that the name, thoughts, and image of Jose Marti might be used against the peoples of our America?

[Perez Esquivel] Not at all. Marti's memory and spirit were always on the side of the people, not on the side of aggression. Therefore, the use of Marti's name to attack the people is out of the question. Marti's ideas are a totally different thing and they have always been on the side of the people.

Former Dominican President Remarks

PA201723 Havana International Service in Spanish 1635 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with former Dominican President Juan Bosch by unidentified questioner; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] What do you think of the U.S. decision to install the radio station that has offensively been named Radio Marti? What does this mean in the U.S. escalation against the peoples of our America?

[Bosch] It means that the U.S. Government considers as part of its territory all the Latin American states, especially those of the Caribbean. Therefore, it thinks that Washington's authority should prevail in those Latin American countries, in the English-speaking, French-speaking, or Dutch-speaking states in the Caribbean. It is a view that is totally opposed to the principles of international law and the functions of the United Nations as a forum in which all the states legally recognized by it are equally represented.

[Question] Since we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, we would also like your opinion on the following: The Cuban Government's statement indicates that the transmissions of this subversive station against Cuba are being carried out in a strange, surprising, and devious manner, without a previous warning to the U.S. press except for a terse, hypocritical, and justifying message issued 12 hours ago by the U.S. Interests Section and that this action occurs at a time when various types of constructive steps had been taken to ease the existent tensions between Cuba and the United States.

[Bosch] The United States is not interested in easing tensions. The United States creates tensions and wants to maintain them so as to make itself felt as the supreme authority in all our countries.

[Question] You know the Cuban people and Cuban independence leader Jose Marti. Do you think that the United States can divert the Cuban people's strong support for their revolution on the one hand and on the other hand change Jose Marti's anti-imperialist legacy?

[Bosch] No, they will not be able to achieve this. They should know that they cannot change the Cuban people's way of thinking.

[Question] What do you think of the Cuban affirmation that this is a reprisal for Cuba's policy which, in union with the nations of our America, is struggling for a new international economic order?

[Bosch] That has an important part in the decision, but we must recall that this station could have been put into operation over 2 years ago. I think this is an old plan that is now being implemented. They had not been able to implement it as planned until now, beginning today.

Haitian Leader on Broadcasts

PA210034 Havana International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 May 85

[Statement by Haitian political leader Gerard Pierre-Charles on the U.S. Government decision to begin Radio Marti broadcasts -- recorded]

[Text] The decision by the U.S. Government to begin broadcasting over the inappropriately named Radio Jose Marti constitutes repression. This aggressive policy by Reagan seeks to recover the hegemony of the United States at any cost and does not forgive Cuba or any other Latin American country for having wanted or still wanting to rid themselves of U.S. domination. We also note an attitude and expression of intervention in the internal affairs of other countries ranging from a covert war against the people of Nicaragua and the economic boycott of this sister nation, the interference that we have always experienced in the affairs of our countries, to the beginning of broadcasts by this station.

This is the most absolute disregard for what can be [word indistinct] in relations between states. Naturally, it is also the pressure of desperation because for 25 years the United States has attempted every maneuver against Cuba and has said that there would be no [words indistinct] the revolution.

It was that of Cuba, and Cuba [words indistinct] The Sandinist revolution has [word indistinct]. Throughout the continent peoples are beginning to express their discontent and the Latin American governments themselves are adopting more realistic attitudes.

Recently these governments have established diplomatic or economic relations with Cuba. Therefore, the blockade of Cuba has been broken by the strength of the Cuban people and today [words indistinct] again to cause problems in Cuba. However, it is basically expressing its desperation over its impotence because history marches on and regardless of what Reagan does he cannot rewrite history.

Costa Rican Deputy Views Issue

PA201741 Havana International Service in Spanish 1628 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with Sergio Erick Ardon, Costa Rican deputy, from San Jose -- live or recorded]

[Text] In regard to the beginning of transmissions by Radio Jose Marti, I'd like to make the following comment. The truth is that the U.S. Government has not given careful thought to its escalation of aggression against our Latin American peoples. Here in Costa Rica they have installed repeater stations of the Voice of America, which they have named Voice of Costa Rica. The guideline seems to be to launch a kind of a radio war against our peoples, especially in the case of Cuba with the ill-named Radio Jose Marti, and in the case of Nicaragua with the ill-named Voice of Costa Rica. It seems to me that this is one more expression of the aggressive, hostile, and arrogant attitude of the Reagan administration against our peoples. But this is doomed to fail, just as its entire policy of aggression against Nicaragua is doomed to fail.

To give the name of Jose Marti to a station that promotes the domination and subjection of our peoples is a tremendous contradiction. Jose Marti was one of the forefathers of our America, the America that knew and faced the imperialist domination promoted very aggressively by the U.S. Government. Therefore, to name that station after Jose Marti is truly an insult to all of Latin America.

I believe that sooner or later, this station will cease to operate and, in any case, the Cuban people will know how to respond as they have always done, vigorously and with dignity in the face of this new aggression.

The Cuban statement said that the beginning of the transmissions of the ill-named Radio Jose Marti has no other explanation than the clear intention to respond, however clumsily, to the firm and indisputable charges and statements by the Cuban Government concerning the critical situation in Latin America and the Third World, the immoral and unpayable foreign debt, and the cruel economic plundering which the unjust system of international relations has imposed on this country. I also learned of the statement of Commander Fidel Castro, which we feel is very pertinent. It expresses in a very just and specific manner a sentiment that is gaining force throughout Latin America, that the unjust trade terms have led our countries to an unpayable foreign debt. This is a foreign debt that not only affects the current economy but the future development of our peoples as well.

The continent is becoming increasingly aware of the need to face, united, this overwhelming and huge foreign debt imposed on us. I believe that in regard to this, it is evident that Cuba's statements concerning this problem, which I repeat are gaining more support in Latin America, surely bothers the U.S. Government very much.

The U.S. Government is responsible for this situation and would be the one mainly affected when the Latin American peoples unite and respond, as one, to this yoke imposed on us.

I believe that this is probably a measure to strike at or once more seek, but always failing at this, to make Cuba step back in the face of this overall situation. It seems to met that the statement of the Cuban Government is aimed in a just direction.

Panamanian PRD President Comments

PA210339 Havana International Service in Spanish 1822 GMT 20 May 85

[Interview with Berta Torrijos, president of Panama's Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD; questioner not identified, date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Torrijos] I am very concerned over this lack of communications between the two peoples and governments, especially over the misuse of the information media in order to repress the people. We, as good Panamanians, are very concerned that the best use be made of the communications media to promote the best understanding among all Latin American peoples. Therefore, we oppose the arrogance of any government over another, more so in the case of a people and government that have always struggled for dignity in our countries. We will always side with the people who are waging a just liberation struggle.

As good Cubans you always demonstrated concern for the liberation of Panama and we, under the leadership and political direction of Panama and we, under the leadership and political direction of General [Omar] Torrijos, carried out a policy for better understanding, better communication, and better coordination with every country in the world. Therefore, we will never agree with this kind of subjugation and arrogance of one power over another. With this concern in mind, we will more carefully observe what is happening to you, taking into consideration the repercussions that it has for the rest of the Latin American countries.

[Question] Berta, the Cuban Government's declaration states that this occurs at a time when constructive steps were being taken to lessen tensions between Cuba and the United States. Therefore, the declaration states that these broadcasts are being made in a strange manner, insinuatingly, surprisingly, and without prior notice, giving the impression that it is being done to punish Cuba for the struggle it is waging to unite the rest of our America in defense of a new international economic order. What is your opinion of the struggle being waged by all of the countries of our America, which interests Cuba, Panama, and every Latin America country?

[Torrijos] As Panamanians, we are continuously concerned over this reorganization of the economic, political, and social order. We are always on the side of the peoples who are waging a struggle for normality. We believe that in this reorganization we must all do our share. Nevertheless, some persons misinterpret this. Therefore, we see, with great concern and at a time when our countries are experiencing their greatest economic problems, a reversal of the agreements and steps we took as dignified countries to try to achieve complete liberation and independence. We are worried about the fact that after significant steps were taken for these agreements, the process is actually going backward. Why?

We believe that misunderstandings or misinterpretations are not going to lead to a positive agreement. Our countries are very dignified. We believe that we should not take a step backward on any previous agreement. We must go forward, especially now that we are involved in these great political, economic, and social problems that are convulsing Latin America.

Therefore, the Cuban people should know the great concern of the Panamanian people and mine as president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party. We will closely follow the responsibilities that we attach to political activities. We believe that every country must solve its internal problems, but with the solidarity of other countries with similar problems.

I am quite annoyed that the great North American country should try to resolve its internal differences by immobilizing or disrupting the peace and tranquillity of [word indistinct]. In this respect, I believe that all our governments should be concerned over any action that is taken unilaterally. I want to tell the Cuban people to maintain their dignity and the other countries will understand. Our countries (?should make themselves heard). What is happening to Cuba could happen to any country in Latin America or the world. Let us remain united and uphold our homelands and America. This is why we wish to express our solidarity with the ideas of the Cuban people. No process of good or bad -- I mean bad information -- should be used to the detriment of the basic interests of the people.

[Question] Berta, do you know Jose Marti, our independence fighter?

[Torrijos] Yes.

[Question] Do you believe that he could truly become a symbol to oppress other peoples, or is he a symbol of the struggle for the liberation of our America?

[Torrijos] Look, Pedro, when someone wants to humiliate a nation, they try to remove its heroes from their pedestals. Jose Marti is the symbol of a great liberation struggle. His name can never be humiliated, he can never be removed from his pedestal and the liberation ideas that he produced can never be erased. That is why we worry about the symbolism of using Marti's name in any struggle against the Cuban people. We oppose the misuse of symbols and the destruction and distortion of ideas through any type of aggression or misinterpretation of agreements.

This could happen not only to the Cubans and Jose Marti, with his great ideas and the struggles he waged beside his people, but could also be transferred to other symbols in Latin America. They may try to destroy other ideas that the people have adopted. What is happening to you could happen to us. We must be aware that when struggles are shared they are strengthened and end in victory. We will never agree with the destruction of the image or ideas of Jose Marti and the worthy Cuban people.

Former Colombian Senator Remarks

PA201452 Havana International Service in Spanish 1306 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with Apolinar Diaz Callejas, prominent attorney and former Colombian Senator and deputy minister of agriculture, by Pedro Martinez from Colombia -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Diaz Callejas] This news is no surprise to us. President Reagan has demonstrated from the beginning of his administration that he does not care about going against international law and UN decisions. Even the OAS sometime ago approved some rules on nonintervention and meddling in the affairs of other countries.

President Reagan could not care less about the law. This is why he practices terrorism against Nicaragua and now has implemented a radio broadcast system aimed at insulting the Cuban people, at distorting terrorist and counterrevolutionary activities against the Cuban regime.

So this is no surprise to me, since President Reagan constantly violates the law. He has mined Nicaragua's ports. He has organized this radio station. He sponsors the counterrevolutionaries acting against the Nicaraguan people. President Reagan is the worst violator of international law in the world. He ignores The Hague International Court of Justice, of which the United States is a member.

We have reached the point at which world public opinion has realized that the Government of the United States, of Mr Reagan, does not respect any international law. This has been the effect produced by this U.S. decision, which is a provocation, a new defiance, and a new offense to the Cuban people.

But I want to tell you, my dear Pedro Martinez, that Latin America as a whole, and Colombia specifically, I guarantee you, rejects this decision by the Reagan government, this new action of the Reagan government against the Cuban revolutionary government.

You can be sure that the Latin American people will continue rejecting this policy of the Reagan government. Furthermore, and this is important, within the United States, attorneys, religious groups, common citizens, and congressmen are opposed to this wild action by a president who, supposedly acting on behalf of Western civilization and Christianity, every day violates international law and places himself outside the law. The Reagan government is outside international law and acts against international law. Someday it will have to face judgment because of these violations.

[Martinez] Apolinar, do you believe that Jose Marti, who masterminded the historic attack on the Moncada barracks, should be used by the United States against the Cuban people and the people of our America?

[Diaz Callejas] Such a use is not only an act of infamy and intellectual knavery, it is also an insult to the history of America. This man is a pathological case. U.S. imperialism chose a sick man, Mr Reagan, to direct its aggressive actions. This man had the nerve to compare the criminals who form part of the mercenary groups that attack Nicaragua as children of Bolivar, as followers of Bolivar. This man does not have any moral, intellectual, or ethical limits to prevent him from giving to that radio station the name of Marti, one of the greatest contributors to the development of the independence ideology of Latin America, who has contributed the most to create a Latin American anti-imperialist awareness. This idea of using the name of Jose Marti for the purpose of implementing a policy of aggression against Cuba and to promote terrorism would only fit in the mind of a sick man. We must admit that U.S. imperialism unfortunately chose a sick man as its leader.

[Pedro Martinez] Thank you, Apolinar Diaz Callejas, an important Colombian, for this telephone statement made to Radio Havana.

Portugal's Goncalves on Broadcasts

FL210634 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0555 GMT 21 May 85

[Text] Former Portuguese Prime Minister General Vascos Goncalves said the beginning of broadcasts by a U.S. radio station against Cuba was vulgar. The Portuguese politician said: This is a new provocation and an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of a country. He added that the broadcasts of the new U.S. station demonstrate the interventionist policy of President Ronald Reagan.

TANA President Criticizes Operation

PA202049 Havana International Service in Spanish 1745 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with Guillermo Toriello, former Guatemalan foreign minister and president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, from Mexico City by unidentified questioner -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is your opinion of the brazen and provocative decision of the U.S. Government to begin subversive transmissions against Cuba on 20 May through the offensively-named Radio Marti?

[Toriello] I must tell you that yesterday I heard with great indignation the 24 Hours newscast of Televisa indicating that the announced Radio Marti would begin transmissions from the United States as part of the Voice of America. Just the use of that name for the station is an insult to the Cuban people because it is named after their national hero, the great and eminent revolutionary and literary man, Jose Marti. It is also an insult to all the Latin American peoples because of the respect we have for the memory of the great anti-imperialist and anticolonialist fighter of our America.

That Radio Marti, as they have offensively called it, is parallel to Radio Liberty in Europe, which is also managed by the CIA and the U.S. Government to try to confuse the people. In the case of Cuba, it will be a total failure because in Latin America, the Cuban people are the most politicized people, aware that their revolution has, in addition to providing them with well-being and dignity, given them a great deal of material and spiritual satisfaction. That is why the Cuban people are willing to defend their revolution to the end, to the last drop of their blood.

Now then, this new provocation against Cuba, which had already been announced some time ago in the Santa Fe document of 1980, is an instrument of the hegemonist policy against our America. It has been launched at this time as a reprisal against the Cuban Government because of its worldwide denunciation of the unjust capitalist system. It has been laid bare by Cuban President Fidel Castro when he demonstrated with figures that the debt and unfair interests demanded by the banks and the IMF cannot be paid by the Third World countries. They cannot pay [number indistinct] in debt and usurer's interest [words indistinct]. Therefore, it is revenge against Cuba because of its firm vanguard position in the defense of the legitimate interests of all Latin American and Caribbean peoples, its firm support for the Contadora Group, its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's heroic struggle against the imperialist aggression and the Salvadoran people's struggle to throw off the yoke of Duarte's tyranny, its solidarity with the Guatemalan people's struggle against the gorillas who are in power and above all against the U.S. efforts for hegemony in the continent.

Cuba's solidarity with the just causes in the world has led the industrial-military complex headed by Ronald Reagan, who is carrying out a neofascist policy, as has unquestionably been revealed by his visit to the Bitburg Cemetery of the assassins and storm troops of Hitler, during which he offended 50 million people who died to eradicate fascism from the world; it shows that this neofascist and racist policy of the Reagan administration seeks with that station to convince not the Cuban people, but the international public about what the Cuban revolution truly means for all the world's revolutionaries.

As a Latin American and as president of the TANA, I condemn that offense against the Cuban people and their distinguished government as a result of the use of the sacred name of Jose Marti, national hero of Cuba.

On expressing this condemnation, I issue a call to all the revolutionary, democratic, and progressive forces of Latin America and the world to protest this new aggression against Cuba. In addition to arbitrarily usurping the territory of Guantanamo and maintaining a more than 23-year-old blockade that is unjustifiable and that violates all international norms, the United States with this new provocation shows its obstinacy in provoking and attacking one of the most noble peoples of this continent who are carrying out an exemplary revolution.

This vile provocation by the Yankee neofascists against Cuba will only result in a greater unity of the Cuban people in defense of their revolution and their great economic, political, social, and cultural achievements and a strengthening of their clear anti-imperialist conscience. Therefore, I think that far from achieving the objectives that Washington planned, this vile act of offensive transmissions against Cuba will result in a worldwide rejection of this new aggression against Cuba and a more extensive, combative solidarity with the great Cuban people and their illustrious government.

Cpustal Leader Comments

PA210343 Havana International Service in Spanish 2256 GMT 20 May 85

[Telephone interview with Roberto Prieto, permanent secretary of the Permanent Congress for Latin American Workers Trade Union Unity, Cpustal, from Mexico City by unidentified questioner -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Prieto] I, and the Cpustal as well, cannot help but voice strong and total outrage at the new criminal, provocative, aggressive, and utterly senseless action adopted by a leader such as Mr Reagan. Moreover, this is a crime, inasmuch as the Reagan administration's foreign policy regarding Latin America and especially regarding the glorious Cuban revolution and the Sandinist people's revolution is a means to curb our peoples' heroic struggles to overthrow dictatorial regimes and recover liberty and democracy on the continent.

Naturally, it is most outrageous that the name used for this station, a station of slanders, provocations, lies, and aggression, is that of the great Jose Marti. Naturally, Mr Reagan does not stop to consider this. We believe that our people -- the workers, the democratic forces -- have risen and are rising and to unite and seek joint solutions to our peoples' dramatic situation, and to face the imperialists' warmongering policies; likewise we believe that all our peoples will rightly react to Mr Reagan's cowardly, cynical, and threatening attitude toward Cuba and Latin America.

Thus, the Cpustal is calling on all its affiliated and friendly labor unions to close ranks, to condemn, as they should, to issue statements, and to rally to face the imperialist Yankees' tremendous aggression.

[Question] Mr Prieto, the statement by the Cuban Government on 20 May states that with this measure, the U.S. Government is undoubtedly attempting to create tension and conflict concerning Cuba, conflict that will distract world opinion from the serious foreign debt problems, change the course of Cuban efforts to find an adequate solution to this critical and explosive situation, and squelch Cuban initiative. Do you think the United States will achieve this objective?

[Prieto] Indeed not. The Cpustal has reaffirmed and adopted as its own the very clear and profound statement by Commander Fidel Castro to the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR. Undoubtedly, that is the idea. Yet, undoubtedly we will learn to overcome all these aspects to become even more united; to convey to Cuba our unflinching solidarity; and to tell Cuban workers, people, the glorious Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, and the revolutionary government that once again we will support them in a worthy, strong, and heroic stance.

[Question] Mr Prieto, the objective is to undermine Cuba's domestic order. Knowing the Cuban people, do you think that this imperialist objective will be successful?

[Prieto] The answer will be the same as always: united to defend the revolution; united to move ahead in the revolutionary process, to defend the economy, and to make production more efficient; and most of all to be more effective in protecting the glorious revolution. We do not doubt this, and therefore we will always stand beside the Cuban workers, people, and revolutionary government.

[Question] Before ending, Mr Prieto, how are the preparations for the Latin American trade unions' continental meeting progressing?

[Prieto] We are trying our best to promote this trade unions meeting to give a united reply to the serious foreign debt problem and the IMF policy. We also know that that is one of the aspects annoying the imperialist Reagan administration, but whether they like it or not we workers will learn to join efforts and reach an agreement, to fight together to end the terrible situation we are experiencing. This situation is shameful and is one of exploitation, poverty, hunger, and unemployment caused by the imperialist policy.

Cameguey Workers Denounce Station

FL210522 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0455 GMT 21 May 85

[Text] The U.S. Government's decision to begin broadcasts by an anti-Cuba station was repudiated by workers and students at work centers in Camaguey Province. Workers of the collective of the Retangle Company in Guaimaro, in a called meeting, expressed their condemnation of these counterrevolutionary broadcasts and called the U.S. Administration's decision to call the new station Radio Marti ridiculous.

Uruguayan Legislator Comments

FL210330 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 85

[Text] The president of the Uruguayan House of Representatives Antonio Marquesano this afternoon arrived in our country invited by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. He was received at Jose Marti International Airport by ANPP President Flavio Bravo.

[Begin Marquesano recording] We feel that the foreign debt is an unbearable burden for our Republic and, I think, it is the same for all Latin America because I have just come from Venezuela. I have talked with several important Venezuelan leaders and the same concern is present.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the beginning of operations in the United States of the subversive radio station directed against the Cuban people?

[Marquesano] This is part of a general campaign which naturally will have to be defeated with persistence, with determination, by raising our ideals, remembering the principles of our heroes in their struggle for independence, and mainly, obtaining now an independence that Latin American countries have not yet obtained, which is economic independence. [end recording]

SOLOMENTSEV, RISQUET ADDRESS FRIENDSHIP CEREMONY

FL142338 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 2159 GMT on 14 May carries live coverage of the Cuban-Soviet friendship ceremony being held in Havana's Karl Marx Theater.

As coverage begins, the camera pans the audience inside the theater and at 2201 GMT, the curtain rises. Shown standing on a dais on the stage and identified by the announcer only as leaders of the Cuban party, state, Union of Young Communists, and mass organizations are Cuban President Fidel Castro, FAR Minister Raul Castro, Vice President of the Councils of State and Ministers Carlos Rafael Rodriquez, Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Jorge Risquet Valdes, alternate Politburo member Vilma Espin, and others. Also on the dais are Soviet Politburo member Mikhail Solomentsev and other Soviet officials identified by the announcer only as members of a high-level Soviet delegation. The Cuban and Soviet national anthems are played. At 2203 GMT, the music ends and staff announcer Manolo Ortega introduces Solomentsev, who at 2206 begins a 34-minute speech in Russian with simultaneous translation into Spanish. At the conclusion, Solomentsev joins Fidel Castro and the two talk animatedly.

Manolo Ortega then introduces Jorge Risquet Valdes, who begins to speak at 2241 GMT. The camera pans from Risquet to the audience, from Fidel Castro to Solomentsev, then fixes on Risquet.

At 2328, Risquet ends his 47-minute speech with vivas. After the applause, the leaders and public stand for the anthems. The camera pans the dais, then the audience. Coverage of the ceremony ends at 2332.

Solomentsev Speech

PA150032 Havana Internationsl Service in Spanish 2206 GMT 14 May 85

[Speech by CPSU Politburo member Mikhail Solomentsev at a Cuban-Soviet friendship ceremony at Havana's Karl Marx Theater; in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation -- live]

[Text] Dear Companero Fidel, dear Cuban companeros, my friends: Allow me to convey warm and fraternal greetings from the CPSU's Central Committee of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet Government, and millions of Soviets. [applause]

We are sincerely touched by the warm welcome given us in Cuba. We express our cordial gratitude for the noble words directed to the CPSU and all the Soviet people. We are here on the island of liberty, which is making significant progress by following the great force of revolutionary changes, unselfish work, and a high level of patriotism.

I can say with certainty that each Soviet family and each working unit acknowledges Cuba as the most advanced and just society in Latin America; that they appreciate its courageous people and its valiant internationalist combatants. The Cuban people are characterized by their receptiveness to new things, capacity to share openly human suffering, and intransigence toward any form of class exploitation and national oppression.

The heroic attack on the Moncada Barracks, which was carried out by a group of courageous youths headed by Fidel Castro, will be recorded for eternity in the history of the revolutionary movement. That feat... [audience interrupts with applause] that feat led the Cuban people to embrace other struggles to achieve national liberation and gave them confidence to win a victory over tyranny and the domination of imperialist monopolies.

The spirit of the Moncada attack established itself firmly in the conscience of all Cubans as an example of unselfishness and integrity, as an example of a bold challenge to superior reactionary forces. The legendary landing of the "Granma" and the guerrilla epic of the Sierra Maestra and the entire national territory will be forever recorded in the pages of revolutionary history.

The triumph of the 1 January 1959 revolution brought about a new era in the country's history; it launched Cuba into the vanguard of the national liberation movement on the Latin American continent. It was also the source of inspiration to the Cuban people to carry out profound socioeconomic changes and work arduously toward the construction of a new society.

The memory of the overwhelming resistance presented by Cuban combatants to imperialist invaders in Playa Giron in April 1961 will linger into eternity. It was then that Fidel Castro announced that Cuba was fighting for its liberty and independence under the flag of socialism. [applause]

Those unforgettable days showed the world the Cuban people's unyielding determination, their close ties to the revolutionary vanguard, and their great love for the homeland and liberty. Today, as we review Cuba's history, we make a tribute of profound respect for its beautiful revolutionary tradition and its consistent solidarity with the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle all over the world.

Cuba's fraternal aid to Angola and Ethiopia, its unselfish aid to Arab peoples, and many other internationalist actions have won for Cuba the appreciation of all those fighting for liberty, independence, and social progress.

There is a great geographical distance separating Havana and Moscow. However, Soviets and Cubans are closely linked by socialism's common ideals. We are strongly linked by internationalism, which is a powerful force of fraternal friendship among the socialist community. We fight together against imperialism's aggressive policy and against the arms race in order to achieve peace and peoples' free development.

Soviet-Cuban cooperation has existed successfully for more than a quarter of a century. After actually beginning at point zero, this cooperation now encompasses extensive ties in all aspects of life.

The Soviet Union, Cuba, and other brother nations are engaged in a manifold economic integration program in the most diverse branches of industry, agriculture, science, and technology. Our joint work and comradely interaction represent a powerful springboard for social progress. We feel proud of the industrial projects that have become true symbols of Soviet-Cuban friendship: the Jose Marti steel plant; the Santa Clara mechanical plant; the Holguin combine sugar plant; the Mariel and Rente thermoelectric plants, and the Cecilia Sanchez combine textile plant. Soviet experts work side by side with Cuban experts in building gigantic enterprises: the atomic energy plant; the Punta Gorda nickel plant; oil refineries; and so forth.

The development program for long-term economic, scientific, and technical cooperation signed last year between the USSR and the Republic of Cuba until the year 2000 even broadens the prospects for the socialist international labor [word indistinct] and for a continued increase in the potential of our people's economic development. The composition of Cuba's national economy has radically changed. Cuba used to purchase almost everything from abroad, even nails and buttons, but today it produces the most complex machinery and artifacts, equipment, and instruments. Currently, industries as modern as the manufacture of radioelectronic [radioelectronica] machinery, the manufacture of chemical products, and naval construction have been developed here.

The machete has always been a symbol in Cuba. Cubans have cut sugarcane to the beat of a machete. Armed with machetes, Cuban rebels fought against their oppressors and exploiters. Currently, we can say that the powerful sugar combine has replaced the work of hundreds of laborers. The total mechanization of agricultural work, new enterprises, schools, hospitals, housing, and cultural and sports centers are the fruits of the inspired work of a people who have broken the chains of exploitation and oppression. The Cuban people achieve labor victories in the midst of relentless imperialist threats and under permanent war readiness. U.S. imperialism does all it can to hamper the creative and peaceful work of the Cubans. We fully understand the difficult international political situation in which you, dear comrades, are building a new society.

Allow me to convey to you from this rostrum the Soviets' fraternal solidarity with the heroic Cuban people. [applause] Cuba, a worthy member of the great socialist community, has faithful and trusting friends. We are convinced that the Cuban revolution will continue advancing toward new socialist victories. [applause]

Comrades, this meeting is being held during memorable and solemn days. The entire progressive community fully celebrates the 40th anniversary of victory over Hitlerite fascism and the end of the bloodiest and most devastating war in history. We Soviets are deeply thankful to the Cuban people for their feelings of true internationalist fraternity and solidarity and for sharing with us our grief over the immense losses and our joy over the victory achieved. On the battlefields of this Great Patriotic War, the Soviet Army defeated the aggressor's soldiers, who had treacherously attacked our country. The Soviet people honorably withstood the most difficult trials in their history. Everything for the front, everything for victory, was the slogan that inspired Soviets in life, in combat and at the workplace. That was truly a war of the entire people.

Despite the immense sacrifices and destruction, the Soviet Union came out of this struggle even stronger, even more united, and even more convinced of the justness of Marxist-Leninist ideas. In this war, not only did the Army win, but the Soviet's social regime, the Soviet economy and the Marxist-Leninist ideology won as well. The invincible unity between the party and the people, workers, peasants, and intellectuals from all of the country's nationalities and peoples; the Soviet fighters' courage; and the rear-guard workers' self-denial constituted the invincible force that ensured our victory. Mankind must learn the lessons the bitter experience of the past war has taught. The chief lesson is to fight against war before it begins. The peoples of the world must accelerate vigilance and tirelessly denounce the imperialist machinations and actions that sow emnity and mistrust and oppose social progress. The teachings of World War II are a grim warning to those imposing the arms race, pushing the world towards a holocaust, and seeking ways to impose world hegemony.

The socialist countries do not threaten anyone. The enemy's attempts to accuse the socialists of exporting revolution are totally untenable. Furthermore, the socialist countries are determined to prevent the export of counterrevolution. The Warsaw Pact organization, which has just celebrated its 30th anniversary, is especially important in controlling the imperialist threats. The extension of the treaty's implementation for a new period, agreed upon unanimously by all of its members, is a new confirmation of the organization's constructive role as an instrument of peace and defender of socialist achievements.

The USSR and other sister countries, aware of their responsibility in the fate of the world, are totally determined to prevent the destruction of the strategic military equilibrium between the USSR and the United States, and between the Warsaw Pact organization and NATO. All attempts to hold talks with the USSR and the other countries in the socialist community through the use of force and threats are doomed to failure. We are deeply convinced that the historical dispute between the different social systems can only be resolved through peaceful means.

The USSR, guided by the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence, implements a foreign policy of peace, respects the legitimate interests of all peoples, and has a realistic attitude with regard to international affairs. It also firmly advocates the end of the arms race on land, sea, and air, and the nonextension of this race to outer space. In all of the international forums and negotiations, at the United Nations, in Stockholm, Vienna, and Geneva, and in the bilateral negotiations with the United States and everywhere, the USSR has been willing to adopt the most radical and far-reaching measures in order to move the world away from the extreme danger of a nuclear holocaust. As convincing examples of the Soviet foreign policy's constructive spirit are our proposals that the USSR and the United States proclaim a moratorium on the creation of space weapons and that all nuclear arsenals be frozen, as well as our decision to declare a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe.

The USSR is willing to exchange opinions with interested countries on worrisome regional problems, be it in the Middle East, in South Africa, or in other regions of the world. The world public opinion describes these positive USSR proposals as policies of peace and reason. We attach special importance to our relations with the United States as an essential factor for the normalization and stability of the international situation. As Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has stressed, to truly improve relations between the USSR and the United States we require the political willingness of that country's leaders. On the Soviet side, this willingness exists.

Nevertheless, thus far the U.S. Administration has not responded to this political willingness. We can openly state that Washington's attitude contradicts the legitimate interests of peace and security of the peoples. We know, companeros, the difficult economic situation that has been created at this time in many Latin American countries and the exploitative, rapacious policies of the transnationals, which relentlessly squeeze the Latin American peoples. The increasing foreign debt, the payment of enormous interest, and the sad decrease in the income from foreign trade, are a great burden on the Latin American states and are leading them into a deep socioeconomic crisis full of political connotations.

We do not have to go far to find the sources of this crisis. We do not have to look for them in another hemisphere. It is an act of cynicism and insolence to attribute this crisis to Moscow or Havana, or to the Communists' activities. The merciless oppression of foreign capital, the policies of the imperialist monopolies, the insatiable greed of the capitalists and landowners are the true causes of the acute situation that threatens to end in a social explosion. The situation in Central America is increasingly dangerous, as the people are victims of gross U.S. involvement in their internal affairs.

After obstructing liberty in Grenada, Washington has initiated a particularly provocative escalation of hostile actions against Nicaragua. Another step taken by the Reagan administration on this dangerous path has been its decision to impose an economic embargo on Nicaragua. Why has the United States risen up against this small nation? What danger can Nicaragua constitute to the most powerful capitalist country? Any unprejudiced person will clearly see that this is class hatred promoted by the imperialists against a people who have initiated the path of an independent foreign policy, of democratic and progressive transformation.

The U.S. military clique resorts to relentless threats through maneuvers by its Armed Forces in Central America. The CIA and the Pentagon sponsor and support the contras who are so hated by the Nicaraguan people. These gross violations are a challenge to the universal rules of international law and morals. They provoke just indignation in the entire world, including vast sectors of public opinion in the United States itself.

The Soviets categorically reject the policy of aggression and meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs (?and) the policy of state terrorism applied to that country. Such actions entail grave consequences for the development of the overall international situation and must be ceased.

From this rostrum I want to say with full responsibility [plena responsabilidad] that the Soviet Union fully supports Nicaragua's just cause and resolutely states [prolonged applause] its opposition to imperialism's dictates and crude pressures.

The only possible way to solve the problems of Central America is the path of negotiations among the respective states. This is precisely what Nicaragua proposes. This is precisely what Cuba and other Latin American countries support.

Dear friends, the Soviet workers, the working class, the kolkhoz peasants, and the intellectuals are engaged in peaceful and creative work. We are complying successfully with the strategy for economic and social development of the country as charted by the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent plenums of its Central Committee. Our party believes that its main internationalist mission is constant development of the economy, the raising of the standard of living of the Soviet people, and the bolstering of the country's defense capability.

Currently Communists and all Soviets, inspired by the resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee April 1985 Plenum, are preparing to hold a worthy 27th CPSU Congress, an event that will have immense political significance. The congress will discuss the report of the CPSU Central Committee and the party's tasks; the new drafting of the party's program; and amendments to its bylaws. The basic guidelines for the country's economic and social development during the years 1986-1990 and for the prospective period up to the year 2000 will be adopted.

The Communist Party proposes bigger and bigger goals for the workers every day. We have taken the path of intensified production and increased efficiency toward a total and multilateral revelation of the possibilities offered by the planned socialist economy.

Our party contends that the key to an intensification of the nation's economy and a better utilization of the production potential is a radical acceleration of scientific-technical progress and the achievement of revolutionary changes in techniques, technology, and organization of production. On this basis, the quality of production can be substantially improved, resources may be used rationally, and a system of economization and austerity can be applied.

The party is pursuing a consistent and stable policy aimed at constantly perfecting the economic mechanism, expanding autonomy, and increasing the responsibility of the labor collectives with a view towards the final results of production. Measures are being applied in order to achieve the widest possible participation of the workers in the management of the economy and the state, to increase their initiative, and to enhance conscientious discipline and order.

The CPSU consistently strengthens the democratic institutions of the socialist society and provides all necessary conditions to encourage the social creativity of the working masses. A huge, massive ideological and political effort is being made in a directed way in order to create great awareness about civic duty, responsibility [word indistinct] of society and the collective, patriotism, and socialist internationalism. A developed socialism guarantees real rights and freedoms to the workers, makes the people's life better and fuller, and endlessly raises the material and cultural standard of living of the Soviet people. All this is for mankind's sake and for mankind's good.

This is our basic motto. The Communist Party pursues true paths with a consistent spirit. Of course, we cannot conceive of the constant growth of the Soviet economy, science, and (?culture) without a close, many-sided cooperation with the fraternal countries of the socialist community.

By joining our efforts, fulfilling the joint economic integration program, and actively exchanging experiences in the field of socioeconomic creation, we can safely confront the future and boldly carry out the increasingly complex tasks of socialist construction. We are united by the inspiring strength of socialist internationalism and the immortal ideals of Marx and Lenin.

We wholeheartedly wish you, dear companeros, new successes in the construction of socialism on Cuban soil. You may rest assured that the Soviet people have been, are, and will always be faithful friends and comrades in the struggle of the Cuban people. [applause]

Risquet Address

FL150105 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2240 GMT 14 May 85

[Speech by Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes at Cuban-Soviet friendship ceremony, held in Havana's Karl Marx Theater -- live]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of State and Ministers; dear Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Solomentsev, CPSU Politburo member; and other accompanying delegation members; distinguished guests; Cuban and Soviet comrades: In this year when all the progressive peoples are commemorating the 40th anniversary of the victory over Nazi fascism, a quarter of a century of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries is marked as well as 60 years of the establishment of direct relationship between USSR and Cuba.

Actually the admiration and solidarity expressed by the most advanced sectors of the working class to the great October Revolution, to the Soviet power of workers and peasants established in the former czarist empire, and toward the brilliant Lenin dates from far back. In May 1918, the first mass activity of Cuban workers in salute to the Russian revolution was held in a Havana theater. In 1920, the national workers congress held in Havana sent a fraternal greeting to the brothers who established the Soviet Socialist Republic in Russia. The following year, Carlos Balino calls from the pages of the Cigar Makers Bulletin for the socialist group he headed, for Cuban workers to give their solidary help to their Russian brothers. Cuban workers will share their bread with Russian comrades, said that humble and brilliant cigar maker who, only 3 decades earlier, had founded with Jose Marti the Cuban Revolution Party to organize and direct the revolutionary war for our country's liberation from Spanish colonialism.

That exemplary revolutionary, only 5 years later, founded with Julio Antonio Mella the first Cuban Marxist-Leninist party to organize and direct the struggle for the true independence and liberation of workers from capitalist exploitation. Making this generous goal a reality, the first Cuban workers' contributions sent by the pro-Russia committee arrived in Moscow. The check, written to the order of Vladimir Ilich Ulianov, comprised the small contributions of thousands of our country's workers and signed by Lenin to be transferred to the Soviet state treasury, constituted a moving background of fraternal struggle, of the solidarity of our two countries.

Workers! called Balino, be prepared to defend Russia. Worse than a country that dies of hunger will be a spring of ideas that dries up before those who thirst for justice will be able to quench their thirst. Helping Russia is a duty workers cannot avoid.

With what force Balino's vibrant and brilliant words still sound in our hearts. The long time that has passed has not made them old but it makes them more significant and exemplary. With emotion we evoke them on a day like today of jubilant and triumphant commemoration of the fraternal friendship which unites Cubans and Soviets.

To the voices of the most advanced detachment of the working class which called for Cuban diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia were added those of students. In 1923, the first national students congress chaired by Julio Antonio Mella agreed to protest the unfair isolation to which world powers were subjecting the new Russia and requested the Cuban Government to consider recognizing the Socialist Russian Republic.

Lenin's death had a deep effect on those peasant and student vanguard groups. The former held sympathy strikes, the latter wore black armbands in tribute to the brilliant leader of the first socialist revolution, which changed the course of history.

As a symbol of admiration and respect of the Cuban workers of that period for Vladimir Ilich, our history documents the unforgettable moment when on the occasion of his death, the people of Regla municipality crowded the streets to publicly pay tribute to that personality who was so bitterly censured, distorted, and slandered by world bourgeoisie propaganda and Cuba's domineering class. That capital territory's Mayor Antonio Bosch Martinez, in a gesture which is worthy of eternal tribute, called the people of Regla to publicly honor the memory of the recently dead great leader by observing two minutes of silence and walking to a nearby hill to plant an olive tree, which has since then and will forever perpetuate the friendship between the Cuban and Soviet countries. This is how Lenin's Hill came to be and later it was the scene of important battles of our proletariat against exploitation and neocolonialism.

When we said in our beginning remarks that this year we also commemorate the 60th anniversary of direct relations between our two countries, we considered these occurrences as events that preceded the historical incident of Julio Antonio Mella's visit to the Soviet ship (Vastad Broskiy) which arrived at Cardenas Bay during the first part of August of 1925.

Defying the prohibition of the reaction of the recently installed Machado tyranny, Mella, designated by the Havana communist group, gave to the Soviet naval crew the emotional embrace of the workers and people of Cuba. The Cubans were represented by their revolutionary vanguard, which was still very small but was the legitimate interpretation of their own true interests and their brilliant future.

For us, that encounter marked the establishment of direct relations between the peoples of Cuba and those of the USSR. A unique document of that event is Mella's chronical, An Afternoon Under the Red Flag, and the speech he gave at the Cigar Makers Society, the profound impact of which I learned about from my own parents. Julio Antonio Mella wrote: Three miles from the city, the (Vastad Brosky) was anchored waiting to receive the sugar made by the proletariat of Cuba for the free men of Russia. Every Soviet who sweetens his coffee would sigh with bitterness for those who made that sugar and who were unable to live as he did in a republic of free workers. That was the painful, but hopeful obsession of the Leninists.

This article was published in "Class Struggle" [Lucha de Clases] dated 16 August, the date on which Mella Balino and a handful of precursors founded the first Communist Party of Cuba. The minutes of this constitutional congress note the decision to present the Soviet crew with a Cuban flag. Afterward, the Soviets in turn gave Mella the red flag bearing the hammer and sickle and a warm message: When we return to the Soviet Union, we will tell our comrades and our Communist government about the proletariat of our distant Cuba. [applause]

Thus in August 1925, the representatives of our peoples presented their credentials to each other. Nevertheless, 17 years were to pass before there would be official diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR.

Between 1936-39, Cubans and Soviets fought shoulder-to-shoulder and shed their blood with the Spanish people in defense of the Republic against the forces of fascism, who on the Iberian Peninsula unleashed criminal aggression against the peoples, which led to the holocaust of World War II. It was those international brigades of freedom, a magnificent internationalist example, which serve to encourage and inspire current and future generations of our respective countries.

The friendship of the Cuban people with the Soviet Union was expressed with even greater force and amplitude beginning in June 1941, when Nazi armies invaded their territory. During the immortal epic of the Great Patriotic War, the Cuban working class, led by the Communists, carried out many important acts of support for that effort, whose history we commemorate as our own on this 40th anniversary.

In October 1942 a large popular movement of solidarity with the Soviet Union, which was heroically confronting the Nazi onslaught and which joined the antifascist alliance comprising the USSR, the United States, and the United Kingdom, made possible the realization of the dream of the precursors, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the country of the Soviets. It is satisfying for Cuba that the first ambassadors from Moscow to Havana were individuals as relevant as (Maxim Litvinov) and Andrey Gromyko.

During our war for independence in 1895, three young internationalist fighters of the Soviet people fought under the command of Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo. (Estresov), (Alientev), and (Konstantinovich) arrived on our western coast on the same expeditionary ship which brought Panchito Gomez Toro. One of them, (Konstantinovich), was wounded in combat. Surprised by the enemy in the field hospital, where (Konstantinovich) was recovering from his wound, and the others were being treated for tropical diseases, they were taken prisoner and subsequently deported.

On their return to the Soviet Union, they joined in the activities of the Russian Workers Social Democratic Party. Several times they were imprisoned in czarist jails, until October 1917, when they concentrated their energy and dedicated the rest of their lives to the construction of socialism.

Also, two brave Cubans, Aldo Vivo and Enrique Vilar, who were living in the Soviet Union at the time of the Nazi invasion, joined the Red Army when they were still adolescents and they died heroically in combat. [applause]

These two events confirm with effort and blood the solidary link of our common struggle for freedom. Comrades, when our revolution was just taking its first steps in power, as early as 10 January 1959, just 2 days after the entry into Havana of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the head of the victorious rebel army [applause], in an unforgettable gesture of solidarity, the Soviet Union officially recognized the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, at a time when its international acceptance was a factor of significant importance.

One year later, on 8 May 1960, those relations were formally and diplomatically reestablished. They had been interrupted by the proimperialist attitude of the Batista tyranny, just 1 month after the coup d'etat of 10 March 1952. In this way there began between the Soviet Union and Cuba what was to be the most fruitful and brilliant phase of relations between the two nations.

With the triumph of the Cuban revolution, relations between Cuba and the USSR began a stage of development that was qualitatively different. When the United States of America brutally turned all its power against our country, in the face of each aggressive political, economic, or military act, next to our people's unyielding decision to fight stood the opportune and firm support of the USSR. [applause] The open hands of all the Soviet people were held out to give us help, and they clasped our hands more and more strongly, very especially in the most difficult moments of the past quarter century.

Soviet workers decided to share their bread with their Cuban brothers. [applause] The great meaning that the example, experience, and material and human assistance of the USSR has had and does have for the Cuban revolution is a decisive reality in diverse circles of the life of our country: in economc, cultural, and scientific-technical development, and especially in the defense of our homeland against imperialist aggressions. The rifles we hold with firm hands, eyes alert, and unshakeable decision are Soviet rifles. [applause]

During these 21 decades, our peoples have marched united toward the objective of building socialism and they have led the way in unprecedented relations between a great power and a small country, characterized by mutual respect and trust, full sovereignty, and the generous and altruistic cooperation of the USSR.

An important milestone in our relations was the first official visit that the first secretary of our party, Comrade Fidel, made to the USSR in May 1963, which was a propitious occasion for the Soviet people enthusiastically to manifest their traditional sentiments of love and respect toward Cuba, its revolution, and its leader. In addition to the great political and human repercussion of that meeting, it served for the signing of important trade agreements in which, at the initiative of the USSR, fair prices were agreed upon that were higher and more encouraging for the Cuban sugar industry. When he reported on the results of that trip, Comrade Fidel said economic relations with the USSR and the socialist bloc, and the economic aid our people opportunely received caused the failure of the imperialist starvation siege. This demonstrates the principle that, under Marxism-Leninism, the economic exploitation of some countries by others, which characterized the colonial era, capitalism, and imperialism, completely disappears under socialism and is replaced by cooperation that benefits mutual interests and by the assistance given by industrialized countries to those that have underdeveloped economics.

More than 20 years after those words were spoken, their profound meaning has been confirmed by the history of the exemplary economic relations that, on equitable bases, we have had with the world's first worker-peasant state. Peoples of diverse latitudes and especially those of underdeveloped countries admire these relations with the sure hope that one day they will prevail among all nations.

How different our present is from the harsh reality that today confronts the so-called Third World, where unequal trade relations prevail together with abusive interest rates, dumping, protectionism, draconian measures of the IMF, and other one-sided practises enthroned by the chief capitalist powers. As a result of their rapacious plundering of natural and human resources, and of the sweat and blood of the developing nations, the latter have been forced to contract enormous unpayable foreign debts that threaten to cause highly explosive situations, as Fidel warned in his ardent call for unity in the struggle for the survival of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. [applause]

Firmly rooted during more than one quarter of a century, our ties with people, party, government, and Armed Forces of the USSR are indissoluble and constitute one of the fundamental pillars of our revolution and of our success in building socialism in our country.

Today is the 21st anniversary of the day on which the U.S. Government prohibited all sales of food and medicines to Cuba as part of the blockade they imposed on us to try to humble us, and nevertheless, at this moment, thanks in great part to the cooperation of the USSR and other socialist countries, our country is one of the best nourished in the Third World. The economic blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States did not force us to our knees or starve us; it could not even halt our development, much less force us to renounce even one of our principles. A similar shameful failure awaits the recent measures of the Reagan administration against heroic Nicaragua. [applause] As Cuba won, Nicaragua will also win against the mercenary bands and the Yankee blockade.

The objectives the international health organizations set for the year 2000 were already fulfilled in Cuba which is taking swift and sure steps to become a medical power as the most eloquent expression of the supreme objective of socialism: everything for mankind's benefit.

Comrades, the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the reestablishment of relations between Cuba and the USSR surpasses this ceremony's limits and has turned into a festival of gratitude by Cubans toward the Soviet Union and an expression of our warmest feeling of admiration and love toward Lenin's motherland.

For our people, the first to accomplish a socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere, that excellent decision 25 years ago, union with the first proletariat revolution of the world, the one that made humanity's high aspirations a reality, the one that represents an unlimited future of accomplishments in the fields of technology and science, the one that is guided by the most advanced social thinking of all time, Marxism-Leninism, which constitutes our common ideology. [sentence as heard]

In political matters, between the Communist Party of Cuba, there are common points of view on the main problems of the building of socialism and the international situation.

On the main problem humanity faces, peace or war, we firmly support the USSR's effort to halt or reverse the nuclear arms race in the world and to prevent the United States from carrying it into space, dragging its allies along with the perverse goal, as mad as it is unattainable, of breaking the present balance and obtaining military supremacy over the USSR and socialism.

It is also appropriate on this occasion to refer with fair historical appreciation to the content of economic relations which represents the work of millions of people of the two countries and which looks to achieve a more multifaceted and efficient development in all areas.

Fair prices, favorable export development for our main products, guaranteed markets, low interest credits with extraordinary payment terms, together with planned future exchange have assured the high and stable level of our economic development.

During the last 10 years, trade with the USSR increased by almost five times, and thanks to that, the main export sector of our country, sugar, today has a solid foundation and is characterized by a high level of mechanization in the agricultural phase as well as in the industrial one.

In a world where the energy crisis and high fuel prices have been the source of ruin and uncertainty for nonoil producing underdeveloped countries, the USSR has guaranteed Cuba a steady supply of oil and its by-products in needed amounts and at favorable prices.

Areas previously unknown in our economy have emerged during these 25 years with Soviet economic aid and advanced technology, among them steel production, manufacture of cane harvest machines and other agricultural machinery, equipment for the sugar industry, electronic industry, production of fertilizers, fishery industry, and geological prospecting of the national territory. Thanks to this cooperation, Cuba is among the first countries in Latin America to create nuclear energy. [applause]

Soviet participation in the preparation of cadres for all areas of the development of our fatherland constitutes one of the most beautiful pages in these relations.

Tens of thousands of Cubans have been trained in the most diverse fields of knowledge in the Soviet Union. On an occasion such as this, we must stress the patient and loving work of numerous educator teams of the Soviet educational centers which, with their work, have made an invaluable contribution to our economy and defense by training men and women to a solid professional level and instilling the moral traits of a superior society, ambassadors of our friendship, who remember the USSR with deep gratitude. [applause]

Also, it is necessary to mention the thousands of Soviets, who as civilians and military advisers and specialists, have worked in our land providing us with the treasure of their knowledge and of their example of dedicated work, modesty, and humility. For them, we offer our acknowledgment and gratitude. [applause]

With the USSR's valuable competence, our scientific and technical institutions obtain a solid material foundation for research. We jointly study problems with Soviet researchers in the interest of the national economy's needs and the main tasks for its development.

One of the outstanding results in this area is the joint Cuban-Soviet space flight which made Yuriy Gagarin's prediction a reality and him a hero who began the path in space. We honor him for being the first president of the USSR-Cuba Friendship Association. [applause] During his historic visit to our country on 26 July 1960, Gagarin expressed the certainty that one day a Cuban would also fly in outer space. And that prediction became reality when (Romanev) and Tamayo raised Cuban-Soviet friendship to the stars. [applause]

During the progress of economic, commercial, and scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and Cuba, an element of prime importance is their planned nature, which allows them to foresee the perspectives of development not only in the medium term but also in longer terms. On 31 October 1984 in Havana, a document of great importance was signed, the long-term development plan of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Republic of Cuba and the Soviet Union through the year 2000. [applause]

These agreements have special significance for Cuba because as an acute economic crisis generated by capitalism detracts from the development and adds cruel misery to the great majority of Third World countries, our nation not only has the satisfaction of having its fulfillment of basic need guaranteed for the rest of the century, but it has also reached the point of having new economic, social, and cultural successes. [applause] Of course, a strong effort on our part is expected as well as austerity, a high degree of saving, exemplary discipline in the workplace, and a growing economic efficiency which will allow us to optimize the material and human resources we have.

Speaking of our economic and scientific-technical achievements, we also recognize the role played in them by the countries of the socialist community, which through bilateral links as well as through the multilateral CEMA programs, have offered their support within the framework of the fraternal and fair relations that we maintain with them.

Outstanding work in bringing the Cuban and Soviet peoples together has been done by the respective friendship associations, which today include many individual and organizational members and which carry out valuable, creative, and multifaceted activities.

The amplitude and depth of our ties to the Soviet Union was felt in recent days when our people festively commemorated even in the most remote areas, the 40th anniversary of the triumph over German fascism and Japanese militarism, an epic that demonstrated the high patriotic internationalist spirit of the nations that make up the Soviet Union, which carried on its heroic shoulders most of the weight of that victory. [applause]

The internationalist spirit that led the Soviets to offer their decisive solidarity to other peoples for their liberation from the fascist yoke is the same spirit that we Cubans came to know years later and in different circumstances in the support and aid of the people of Lenin to our revolutionary cause.

We are obliged to respond to this Soviet collaboration, which is translated into the efforts, work, and sweat of millions of sons of that multinational people, by using its benefits more and more rationally and efficiently, and by using the advanced technical assistance they offer us.

In relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the strict and highest-quality fulfillment of commercial and supply commitments set forth in the annual and 5-year plans should be a matter of honor for our workers.

In the fulfillment of these objectives, the essential responsibility for management rests with our Communist Party in all instances, including the enthusiastic and responsible support for our young communists, the mobilization of the masses into our trade unions, and the training of the administrative cadres in their activities.

In this task, which has been given high priority by our party, we are in agreement with efforts being made by the CPSU under the direction of its Central Committee, led by its Secretary General Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev. [applause] These efforts are aimed at saving and discipline, the rational use of resources, the search for revolutionary solutions to increase productivity and make production more efficient, and the introduction of scientific-technical improvements, as Comrade Solomentsev has just explained, so that the potential advantages are fully realized.

Comrades, relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union have marked their first quarter century and as the second secretary of our party's Central Committee, Comrade Raul Castro, recently said: Much more important than the material content of the relations is their moral content.

As we remember this 25th anniversary, we reaffirm with all our hearts our deep feelings of fondness, brotherhood, and sympathy for the people, the government, and the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. [applause]

And as we reach this occasion, the importance of which will be multiplied infinitely over time, we raise our most valuable flags to salute and recognize everything that unites us to the glorious and immortal Communist Party of the Soviet Union, [applause] that faithful and unselfish continuer of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, of the spirit and the lessons of the October Revolution, which keeps secure, solidary, and unbreakable the ties to all who struggle for peace, bread, and freedom on this planet. [applause]

The debt of gratitude, Fidel said, owed to the glorious party and heroic people of the USSR will never be erased from our hearts. In the solidarity given to Cuba, a country located thousands of miles away from the USSR, the internationalist dreams of Marx, Engels, and Lenin were fulfilled, and the immortal October Revolution was projected with invincible force on the destiny of this continent. In the future there will be many changes. The day will come when capitalism will disappear in the United States. But our sentiments of friendship towards the people that helped us during those decisive and critical years, when hunger and extermination threatened us, will be eternal, end of quote. [applause]

The effort of the Soviet people was colossal during almost seven decades: during the difficult days of the civil war and the intervention of the 14 imperialist countries, during the following period in which the technical and material base of the new social regime was built, in the terrible years of World War II, in the last 40 years of rebuilding the enormous areas devastated in the war, and in the multi-faceted development to build perfect socialism that is moving towards the threshold of communism.

Thanks to that feat, unparalled in all history, we can say to Carlos Malino that the flood of ideas that flows from the USSR will not be exhausted, that in that stream of crystalline water men throughout the world will be able to slake their thirst for justice. We could say to Julio Antonio Mella that the Soviet people now consume our sugar produced without tears because the men that produce it, as are our entire people, are men who are free from capitalist exploitation and masters of their own destiny. [applause]

Long live the 25th anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USSR! [applause, shouts of Viva!] Long live the eternal, indestructible friendship of the Cuban and Soviet peoples! [applause] Long live peace and socialism! Fatherland or death! We shall overcome! [prolonged applause]

Solomentsev Departs

FL171243 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1142 GMT 17 May 85

[Text] CPSU Politburo member Mikhail Solomontsev departed for the USSR. Jorge Riquet Valdes and Jesus Montane Oropesa, member and alternate member respectively of the Politburo, bid farewell to Comrade Solomentsev at Jose Marti Airport.

SELA, VENEZUELAN SECTORS SUPPORT NICARAGUA

PA192102 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 85

[Report by Oscar Perdomo Marin, PRELA correspondent in Caracas -- recorded]

[Text] Over 6,000 people participated in an event held here in Caracas in solidarity with Nicaragua, at a time when that country is the victim of increasing military aggression and a commercial embargo unilaterally imposed by the United States.

The Central University's large auditorium was not big enough, and people swarmed at the doors and roamed the corridors shouting slogans in support of Nicaragua even as SELA's Latin American Council, with the support of 24 member-countries, reached an agreement in support of Nicaragua, which has been described as historic in political circles.

Writer Luis Brito Garcia; humorist Anibal Nazoa; Maria Teresa Castillo, president of Caracas' Atheneum and of the Solidarity Committee with Nicaragua; several retired army officers; singer Lilia Vera; and Senate Vice President Pompeyo Marquez were among those attending the university event.

Meanwhile, politicians of various persuasions continue to reject the U.S. commercial embargo, and several have even warned that a similar action might someday be implemented against Venezuela. Within this context, former President Carlos Andres Perez, key figure of the ruling Democratic Action, has said that Latin America must adopt a more critical stance on the coercive measures adopted against Nicaragua. The consensus, however, is that the Reagan administration will not change its policy toward Nicaragua. Nonetheless, it will learn that decisions like the one adopted by SELA reflect a common position despite the diversity of regimes in a region hit by the worst economic crisis in the last 50 years.

POLITIBURO MEMBERS PRESIDE OVER MEETINGS

FL201456 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 May 85

[Text] Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has presided at the party committee's assessment meeting held in the Cienfuegos municipality of Cumanayagua. In a speech, Machado Ventura said the struggle for the best use of the workday should be supervised by the party through the militants and administrations. The Politburo member referred to the high percentage of young communists and party militants among the workers directly linked to production and services.

Secretariat member Jose Ramon Balaguer presided at the party assessment meeting held in the Villa Clara municipality of Corralillo. In his closing remarks, Balaguer noted that it is necessary to make a great effort, with respect to cadre policy, to fulfill one of the resolutions adopted during the first party congress.

NICARAGUAN COMMUNIQUE URGES U.S. TO RESUME TALKS

PA210238 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 May 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has urged the United States to resume bilateral talks in Manzanillo, Mexico, during the first half of June. An official Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Managua refers to the UN Security Council agreement dated 10 May stressing the need to resume such talks that would serve to pave the way toward normal relations and understanding between the two countries.

The Nicaraguan document pointed to the efforts of the Contadora Group and the presidents of Spain and France to bring the Nicaraguan and U.S. Governments back to the negotiation table at Manzanillo. This dialogue was unilaterally suspended by the White House.

BRIEFS

VILLA CLARA RAW SUGAR PRODUCTION -- By completing production of 1,005,000 metric tons of sugar today, Villa Clara Province has met its raw sugar production plan for the present sugar harvest, and has the country's highest production figure. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 17 May 85 FL]